



# International Conference on Finance, Economics, Management, Accounting and Informatics

“Digital Transformation and Sustainable Business: Challenges and Opportunities for Higher Education Research and Development”

## Beyond Allocation: Unveiling the Gaps Between Budget Realization and Poverty Reduction in Aceh’s SDG Agenda

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### Abstract

Poverty is still a major issue in Aceh despite receiving large special autonomy funds. This study analyzes the effectiveness of budget realization in achieving SDGs 1 (poverty alleviation) in Aceh in 2021-2023 using a qualitative approach, literature study, and secondary data analysis. The results show that budget realization is less effective due to planning-implementation mismatches and a lack of coordination between parties. The research recommends improvements in budget governance, transparency, and data-driven policies to optimize poverty alleviation and improve the welfare of the people of Aceh sustainably.

*Keywords:* Poverty, SDGs 1, Budget Realization, Sustainable Development Goals, Aceh.

### Introduction

Poverty remains a global issue that has not been fully resolved, particularly in developing countries like Indonesia. The high rate of extreme poverty prompted the United Nations (UN) to launch the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in 2000, aiming to reduce poverty by 50% by 2015. After the MDGs concluded, the UN continued its global commitment through the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), agreed upon by 193 countries, including Indonesia, under Presidential Regulation No. 59 of 2017. The SDGs consist of 17 goals, with the first goal being "No Poverty." As a developing country, Indonesia is responsible for implementing the SDGs, particularly in addressing poverty. Although local governments, including Aceh Province, have allocated significant budgets for poverty alleviation, challenges persist (Syahriani et al., 2023). Aceh has the highest poverty rate in Sumatra, indicating that budget allocations have not been effective in improving the community welfare. Efforts to achieve the SDGs in Aceh are carried out through the Regional Action Plan (RAD) for SDGs, which aims to align regional development programs with the global agenda. However, there is a gap between planning and budget realization, which can affect program effectiveness (Bappeda, 2021). Dzulqarnain et al. (2022) stated that efforts to achieve the SDGs in poverty alleviation have presented a different formulation of handling from previous approaches, thus opening up opportunities to address poverty problems more systematically. In line with this, Sudirman et al. (2022) argued that the implementation of SDGs through E-Government, especially in development planning (E-planning) that is inclusive, appropriate, and effective, has the potential to reduce poverty levels and encourage regional economic growth. This is possible through sustainable development program planning that can optimize the handling of risks in the development process, thus creating more productive communities and regions. Digital transformation in governance is also an important catalyst for realizing sustainable and inclusive economic growth, while supporting social development and environmental protection. This study aims to analyze the relationship between budget realization and the achievement of SDG 1 in Aceh Province, with the hope of contributing significantly to the management of funds and poverty alleviation programs. The objectives of this study are to analyze the effectiveness of SDG 1 budget realization in Aceh Province, measure the level of poverty reduction achieved in line with the allocated budget, evaluate the alignment between planning and budget realization, and provide recommendations to enhance the effectiveness of poverty alleviation programs in the region.



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## Literature Review

### 1. Stewardship Theory

Stewardship theory views local government as a public servant (steward) that acts based on moral and professional responsibility to prioritize the interests of the community over personal interests. Unlike agency theory, which emphasizes conflicts of interest, stewardship theory is grounded in trust, loyalty, and service-oriented values. The government, as a steward, is encouraged to develop internal control systems, enhance human resource capacity, and implement principles of accountability and transparency, particularly in producing high-quality financial reports (Raharjo, 2007; Anton, 2010). Several studies indicate that applying stewardship principles can strengthen good governance, although, in practice, not all regions have consistently internalized these values. Therefore, stewardship theory serves as a relevant conceptual framework for analyzing local government performance, particularly in public service delivery and integrity-based financial management.

### 2. Budget

A budget is a systematic financial plan that outlines the revenue and expenditure of a local government for a specific period. Beyond its role as a planning tool, a budget also functions as a mechanism for control, fiscal policy, communication, performance evaluation, and management motivation. In the context of good governance, the budget plays a crucial role in ensuring transparency, efficiency, and accountability in the management of public finances (Wulandari & Aisyah, 2023).

### 3. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

SDGs are a global sustainable development agenda agreed upon by 193 UN member states on September 25, 2015, as a continuation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The SDGs consist of 17 goals and 169 targets to be achieved by 2030 and are implemented in Indonesia through Presidential Regulation No. 59 of 2017. This framework emphasizes the integration of social, economic, and environmental aspects through a sustainable 5P approach: People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace, and Partnership. The main objectives are to end poverty, reduce inequality, and address climate change. Each of the 17 goals covers critical issues such as poverty alleviation, hunger, education, health, gender equality, clean water, affordable energy, decent work, infrastructure, and climate action. The SDGs serve not only as a global development framework but also as a reference for formulating national and regional policies, requiring the involvement of all stakeholders and a participatory, inclusive, and environmentally conscious approach. Local governments play a crucial role in translating these goals into programs tailored to local contexts to ensure equitable, sustainable, and continuous development.

### 4. Poverty

The first goal of SDGs targets the eradication of poverty in all its forms everywhere. The United Nations defines extreme poverty as living on an income below \$2.15 per day, but poverty also encompasses limited access to productive resources and basic rights to a decent life.

Conceptually, poverty describes a state of deprivation that disrupts survival, whether physically, economically, or socially. Adolph (2016) defines it as a lack of access to development resources, while Seyedsayamdst (2020) emphasizes that poverty is a humanitarian issue and a violation of human rights, creating a moral responsibility for society at large. According to the Central Statistics Agency (BPS) of Indonesia, poverty is measured by the economic inability to meet basic needs, both food and non-food, with per capita expenditure below the poverty line as the benchmark. In the Indonesian context, Law No. 24 of 2004 defines poverty as a socio-economic condition where an individual's basic rights are unmet, hindering a dignified life. Thus, poverty is not solely an economic issue but also involves social, human rights, and moral dimensions, requiring comprehensive and sustainable solutions.



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## Methods

This study employs a qualitative descriptive approach using the library research method to analyze the relationship between budget realization and the performance achievement of SDGs Goal 1 in Aceh Province. This approach was chosen because it can generate descriptive data in the form of written or oral words and observable behavior systematically obtained from secondary sources, such as budget realization reports, SDG performance documents for 2021–2023, and policy documents from the Aceh Province Regional Development Planning Agency (Bappeda). The selection of Aceh Province as the research location is based on the persistent challenge of poverty in the region. Referring to the concept of poverty sdgs 1 set by the UN, the targets and measurement indicators are as follows:

**Table 1.** Monitoring of SDGs Without Kinship

Target	Indicator	Activities/Programs
1.1 Eradicating extreme poverty	1.1.1 Proportion of people living below the international poverty line	Target 2030: eradicate extreme poverty for all people and children, with a daily income of at least \$2.15 per person.
1.2 Reducing poverty by 50%	1.2.1 Proportion of people living below the national poverty line, based on multidimensional poverty definition	Target 2030: reduce poverty for all age groups and children from poor families, based on the national multidimensional poverty definition.
1.3 Ensuring social protection systems	1.3.1 Population covered by social protection systems	Indicator for population covered by social protection systems, including vulnerable groups such as the elderly, disabled, and children.
1.4 Equal access to basic services	1.4.1 Access to basic services (housing, clean water, sanitation, and electricity)	Ensuring access to basic services such as housing, clean water, sanitation, and electricity for all people.
1.5 Building resilience to hazards, shocks, and economic disasters	1.5.1 Number of people living in areas vulnerable to economic shocks 1.5.2 Economic loss due to disasters 1.5.3 Strategic risk management 1.5.4 Local risk assessment	Target 2030: build resilience to various risks such as economic, environmental, and social shocks, including local risk management.

(references: Our World in Data, 2023)

The study uses an effectiveness ratio to measure the comparison between budget realization and allocation by comparing the realized budget with the total allocated budget multiplied by 100% (Sumartin et al., 2023). The calculation formula is as follows:

$$\text{Percentage of Realization} = \frac{\text{Total Budget Realization}}{\text{Total Budget Allocation}} \times 100\%$$

Furthermore, the determination of the effectiveness level can be assessed based on Table 1, which presents the correlation between the percentage value and the degree of effectiveness of the realized budget.

**Table 2.** Budget Realization Effectiveness Criteria

Effectiveness Percentage	Criteria
99-100%	Highly Effective
90%-98%	Effective
75%-89%	Moderately Effective
< 75%	Ineffective

(references: Sumartin et al., 2023)

## Results and Discussion

This study, based on secondary data from Aceh Provincial Government budget reports and planning documents (2021–2023), analyzes the effectiveness of budget utilization for SDG 1 poverty alleviation using the effectiveness ratio method. Despite significant budgetary efforts, incomplete and non-comprehensive data on SDG 1.1 (extreme poverty eradication) at the provincial level hinders in-depth analysis.

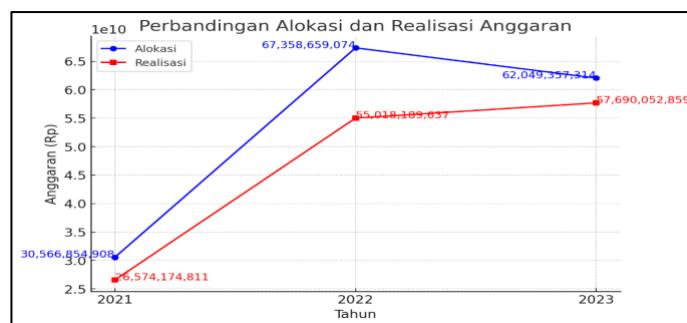


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**Figure 1.** Components of the SDGs 1.2 Budget Allocation Analysis for 2021-2023  
(references: SDGs Report 2021-2023)

Based on Figure 1, the effectiveness of budget realization for SDG 1.2 (50% poverty reduction in Aceh, 2021–2023) was moderately effective overall, with an average absorption rate of 87.20%. In 2021, Rp 26.57 billion of Rp 30.56 billion (86.94%) was absorbed; in 2022, Rp 55.02 billion of Rp 67.36 billion (81.68%) was realized despite a larger allocation; and in 2023, Rp 57.69 billion of Rp 62.05 billion (92.97%) was effectively absorbed. Absorption challenges peaked in 2022 due to a sharp allocation increase and suboptimal utilization.



**Figure 2.** Components of SDGs 1.2 Analysis for 2021-2023 (references: Output Excel, 2025)

Based on Figure 1, the effectiveness of budget realization for SDG 1.2 in Aceh Province from 2021–2023 shows a positive trend, with an average absorption rate of 87.20%. The year 2023 recorded the highest effectiveness at 92.97%, while 2022 marked the lowest at 81.68% despite having the highest allocation. These results indicate that budget management was relatively good but not yet fully optimal, particularly in addressing sharp increases in allocation. After analyzing budget effectiveness, the next stage should focus on evaluating program achievements. However, this study faced limitations due to the lack of detailed output data, making it impossible to comprehensively measure the achievement of program targets.

Target	Indikator	Program	Kegiatan	alokasi			realisasi			persentase			output		
				2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023
1.3	1.3.1 Populasi Yang Menerapka n Sistem Perlindung an Sosial	1.3.1 Rehabilitasi Sosial Dasar Penyandang Disabilitas Terlantar, Anak Terlantar, Lanjut Usia Terlantar, serta Gelandangan Pengemis di Luar Panti Sosial	Rehabilitasi Sosial Dasar Penyandang Disabilitas Terlantar, Anak Terlantar, Lanjut Usia Terlantar, serta Gelandangan Pengemis di Luar Panti Sosial	622,325,323,380.00	545,351,016,366.00	-	378,660,831,941.00	457,512,599,641.00	-	60.84612303	83.89323315	-	tidak di ungkapkan	tidak di ungkapkan	-
total				622,325,323,380.00	545,351,016,366.00	-	378,660,831,941.00	457,512,599,641.00	-	60.84612303	83.89323315	-			

**Figure 3.** Components of the SDGs 1.3 Budget Allocation Analysis for 2021-2023  
(references: SDGs Report 2021-2023)

Furthermore, based on the data in Figure 3, the effectiveness of budget realization for SDG 1.3 related to social protection systems in Aceh from 2021–2023 shows fluctuating results. In 2021, only 60.85% of the Rp 622.3 billion allocated was absorbed, classified as ineffective. In 2022, there was a significant improvement with a realization of 83.89% from an allocation of Rp 545.3 billion, falling into the moderately effective category. However, in 2023, there was neither allocation nor realization of the budget, indicating a temporary suspension or a shift in priorities. On average, the absorption rate over the three years was only 48.25%, deemed less effective. These results reflect the unstable management of the budget, despite progress in 2022. The absence of funding in 2023 raises serious concerns regarding the sustainability of social protection systems in Aceh.



**Figure 4.** Components of SDGs 1.3 Analysis for 2021-2023 (references: Output Excel, 2025)

Based on Figure 4, the effectiveness of budget realization for SDG 1.3 in Aceh from 2021–2023 indicates instability, with an average absorption rate of only 48.25%. The year 2022 recorded the highest realization (83.89%), followed by 2021 (60.85%), while 2023 had no realization due to the absence of allocation. These results reflect challenges in budget absorption and funding uncertainty that hinder the achievement of social protection targets.



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**Figure 5.** Components of the SDGs 1.4 Budget Allocation Analysis for 2021-2023  
(references: SDGs Report 2021-2023)

During 2021–2023, the average budget absorption rate for SDG 1.4 in Aceh Province reached 85.67%, classified as effective. In 2021, the rate was 78.18%, facing implementation challenges due to the pandemic. The year 2022 recorded the highest achievement at 93.11%, attributed to better planning. However, in 2023, it declined to 85.72%, indicating the need for improved consistency and efficiency. The gap between allocation and realization suggests there is still room for improvement in sustainable budget management.



**Figure 6.** Components of SDGs 1.4 Analysis for 2021-2023 (references: Output Excel, 2025)

The effectiveness of budget realization for SDG 1.4 in Aceh from 2021–2023 showed fluctuations. The highest achievement was in 2022 with a realization of 93.11%, followed by 2023 (85.72%), and the lowest in 2021 (78.18%). The average absorption rate of 85.67% indicates relatively good performance, though challenges remain in achieving maximum absorption. Moving forward, budget planning needs to be aligned with implementation capacity, coordination must be enhanced, and funding allocations should be consistently maintained. Unfortunately, limited output data hinders a comprehensive evaluation of SDG achievements.

Target	Indikator	Program	Kegiatan	alokasi			realisasi			percentase			output			
				2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023	
1.5 Membangun Ketahanan Terhadap Bencana Lingkungan, Ekonomi dan Sosial	1.5.1 Kematian dan Orang Yang Terkena Dampak Bencana Alam	Pembangunan Potensi Sumber Kesejahteraan Sosial Daerah Kabupaten/Kota	Pembangunan Potensi Sumber Kesejahteraan Sosial Daerah Kabupaten/Kota	176,521,500.00	-	-	176,111,400.00	-	-	99.77			tidak diungkapkan	-	-	
			Perlindungan Sosial Korban Bencana Alam dan Sosial Kabupaten/Kota	115,083,400.00	449,990,000.00	-	114,761,700.00	449,290,000.00	-	99.72	99.84		tidak diungkapkan	tidak diungkapkan	-	
	1.5.2 Kerugian Ekonomi Langsung Akibat Bencana Alam	Penanganan Bencana	Penyelenggaran Pemberdayaan Masyarakat terhadap Kesiapsiagaan Bencana Kabupaten/Kota		199,593,300.00	-		199,593,300.00	-		100.00			tdk diungkapkan	-	-
			Identifikasi dan Verifikasi Kerusakan dan Kerugian akibat Bencana													-
		Peningkatan Kesiagaan dan Pencegahan Bahaya Kebakaran	Pemulihan Dampak Kerusakan Kerugian Akibat Bencana													-
			Peningkatan Kesejahteraan Tenaga Pemadam Kebakaran													-
	1.5.3 Strategi Pengurangan Risiko Bencana	Pencegahan dan Penyisiran Qanun dan Protap Kebencanaan	Pencegahan dan Penyisiran Qanun dan Protap Kebencanaan			-			-						-	-
						-			-						-	-
	1.5.4 Pengurangan Risiko Bencana Lokal					-			-						-	-
total				291,604,900.00	649,583,300.00	-	290,873,100.00	648,883,300.00	-	99.75	99.89					

**Figure 7.** Components of the SDGs 1.5 Budget Allocation Analysis for 2021-2023  
(references: SDGs Report 2021-2023)

Based on the table above, in 2021, the budget allocation for supporting SDG 1.5 was Rp 291.60 million, with a realization of Rp 290.87 million (99.75%), indicating very high effectiveness with a budget shortfall of only Rp 731,800. This achievement reflects efficient planning and execution, despite the relatively small budget scale. In 2022, there was a significant increase in the budget allocation to Rp 649.58 million, with a realization of Rp 648.88 million (99.89%). Although the amount was much larger, the local government maintained slightly higher effectiveness compared to the previous year, demonstrating improved capacity in managing more complex budgets. However, in 2023, there was neither allocation nor realization of the budget (0%), creating a stark contrast with the previous two years. This absence of funding indicates inconsistency in funding commitment and risks hindering the continuity of disaster resilience programs. Over the 2021–2023 period, the average absorption rate was only 66.54%, classified as ineffective due to the zero allocation in 2023. If only 2021 and 2022 are considered, the average absorption rate reaches 99.82%, reflecting very high effectiveness when funds were available. This fluctuation illustrates significant dynamics in budget management: the first two years showed near-perfect efficiency with minimal budget shortfalls (0.25% and 0.11%), while the third year marked stagnation due to the absence of funding. This instability in allocation poses a major challenge to the sustainability of SDG 1.5 targets, as without financial support, established programs risk stalling, reducing community resilience to disasters. Therefore, funding consistency is a key factor in ensuring the sustainability and long-term impact of development programs.



**Figure 8.** Components of SDGs 1.5 Analysis for 2021-2023 (references: Output Excel, 2025)



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Furthermore, the effectiveness of budget realization for SDG 1.5 in Aceh shows excellent performance in 2021 (99.75%) and 2022 (99.89%), but a drastic decline in 2023 due to the absence of allocation (0%). The three-year average absorption rate was only 66.54%, but when considering only the years with budgets, the effectiveness reached 99.82%. This achievement underscores the strong capacity of the local government, but funding continuity must be maintained to ensure SDG 1.5 targets are achieved sustainably without being affected by policy changes.

**Table 3.** Poverty Percentage for the Years 2015, 2021, 2022, and 2023

Provinsi Aceh	Total Anggaran				Jiwa				Persentase			
	2015	2021	2022	2023	2015	2021	2022	2023	2015	2021	2022	2023
	9,754,201,265.00	723,301,303,388.00	662,458,524,112.00	109,898,650,484.00	851,590	834,240	806,820	806,750	17.08	15.33	14.64	14.45

(references: BPS, 2024)

Based on BPS data from the table above, the poverty rate in Aceh Province shows a declining trend from 2021–2023, from 15.33% to 14.45%, equivalent to a reduction of 27,490 individuals. The largest decrease occurred in 2022, supported by a budget allocation of Rp 662.45 billion. However, in 2023, despite a continued decline, the reduction was only 70 individuals with a significantly smaller budget of Rp109.89 billion, reflecting a slowdown in poverty alleviation efforts. From 2015 to 2023, the poverty rate decreased from 17.08% to 14.45%, or by 44,840 individuals, aligning with the SDG 1 target.

## Conclusion

The study shows varying budget realization effectiveness for SDG 1 in Aceh (2021–2023). SDG 1.2 (extreme poverty) was moderately effective, peaking in 2023; SDG 1.3 (social protection) was less effective; SDG 1.4 (access to ownership rights) was most effective in 2022; and SDG 1.5 (disaster resilience) was highly effective in 2021–2022 but lacked funding in 2023. Effectiveness depended on budget availability, with suboptimal optimization and sustainability efforts. Poverty rates dropped from 15% (2021) to 14% (2023), but the decline slowed due to funding fluctuations and limited data transparency. Consistent budgeting, efficient implementation, and better reporting are needed. The study, limited to secondary data, lacks primary insights and comprehensive impact assessment due to missing output data.

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