

Implementation Of Social Assistance Policy For Poverty Reduction In Sleman Regency Special Region Of Yogyakarta

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Abstract

Declining poverty in Sleman Regency must be assessed alongside the quality of social assistance implementation, particularly as beneficiary databases and program rules change. This study analyzes the implementation of social assistance policy, identifies problems at the interfaces between service stages, and proposes improvements that can be monitored. It uses a qualitative document-based case study supported by a descriptive analysis of poverty indicators. The primary empirical corpus comprises nine sources from 2023-2026, supplemented by historical sources and scholarly literature. Thematic analysis applies the Van Meter and Van Horn model and the concept of administrative burden. BPS data show that the poverty rate fell from 7.46% in March 2024 to 6.71% in March 2025; the poverty gap index declined from 1.21 to 0.76, and the poverty severity index from 0.27 to 0.14. Local documents describe the role of PKH facilitators, data updates through kalurahan deliberation forums, and the development of digital services. The available evidence is insufficient to determine how quickly data corrections are resolved, whether all benefit deliveries reach the intended recipients, or whether welfare gains persist after graduation. Changes in aggregate poverty indicators also cannot be causally attributed to social assistance. The study concludes that implementation improvements should focus on tracing proposals through to decisions, providing accessible grievance channels, and tailoring assistance to beneficiaries' circumstances. Its contribution lies in connecting institutional analysis with beneficiaries' service pathways during the transition to DTSEN. The recommendations include recording proposal processing times, reconciling benefit delivery, and monitoring households

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after graduation while distinguishing administrative changes from genuine improvements in welfare.

Keywords: policy implementation; social assistance; poverty reduction; DTSEN; Sleman Regency

INTRODUCTION

Background

Social assistance is a government instrument for protecting poor households' ability to meet basic needs. Implementation challenges begin with determining eligibility, continue through benefit delivery, and re-emerge when household circumstances change. Clear eligibility criteria still require implementing organizations that can translate them into service decisions. Van Meter and Van Horn's implementation model locates policy performance in the relationships among goals, resources, organizations, and the wider environment (Van Meter & Van Horn, 1975).

Sleman Regency has recorded an improvement in poverty indicators. Statistics Indonesia (BPS) reported that the number of people living in poverty declined from 97.94 thousand in March 2024 to 89.28 thousand in March 2025, while the poverty rate fell from 7.46% to 6.71% (Badan Pusat Statistik Kabupaten Sleman, 2025). These changes, however, do not by themselves demonstrate the quality of social assistance implementation. A study in Kalurahan Sumberharjo found that PKH targeting was not fully accurate, beneficiary records did not always reflect conditions in the field, and benefit delivery still encountered problems (Widianingrum & Wahyuni, 2024). Aggregate BPS poverty statistics also do not provide household-level information on whether benefits match entitlements, how data corrections are followed up, or whether beneficiaries' economic circumstances remain stable. An implementation assessment therefore requires evidence on the service process experienced by beneficiaries.

The Sleman Regency Government enacted Regency Regulation No. 5 of 2023 on Poverty Reduction. It covers policy and strategy, beneficiaries and poverty data, community participation, institutions, information systems, and monitoring and evaluation (Pemerintah Kabupaten Sleman, 2023). This scope places social assistance within a poverty reduction agenda involving several agencies. Day-to-day implementation must link the protection of basic needs with



empowerment so that beneficiaries do not lose support when moving from one service to another.

Changes in data governance reinforce this need. Presidential Instruction No. 4 of 2025 directs the use of the National Single Socioeconomic Data (DTSEN) in social and economic policy. Minister of Social Affairs Regulation No. 3 of 2025 subsequently governs its updating, use, and reporting (Kementerian Sosial Republik Indonesia, 2025; Presiden Republik Indonesia, 2025). At the program level, Minister of Social Affairs Regulation No. 8 of 2026 on Program Keluarga Harapan (PKH) took effect on 13 August 2026 and revoked Minister of Social Affairs Regulation No. 1 of 2018 (Kementerian Sosial Republik Indonesia, 2026). These regulatory changes must be distinguished from implementation conditions reported in earlier studies.

Knowledge gap

Research by Widianingrum and Wahyuni on PKH in Sumberharjo identified the benefits of facilitation but also problems with beneficiary data, benefit delivery, and compliance with meeting requirements (Widianingrum & Wahyuni, 2024). An earlier study in Gamping described communication between facilitators and beneficiaries and links with education and health facilities (Kurniawan, 2013). Each study explains its own location and period. Neither provides a regency-wide assessment in 2026 of the data transition, grievance follow-up, and beneficiaries' longer-term welfare.

Evaluation literature from Indonesia provides grounds for closer examination of these processes. A PKH experiment found improvements in several education and health indicators after six years but no transformative economic change among beneficiary households (Cahyadi et al., 2020). A food assistance experiment showed that changing the delivery mechanism can increase the value of assistance actually received by targeted households (Banerjee et al., 2023). These national findings help frame the analytical questions, but their effect sizes cannot be transferred directly to Sleman.

The gap addressed in this article concerns the relationship between institutional reform and continuity in beneficiaries' services. The analysis goes beyond the existence of regulations or benefit delivery activities to examine whether available documents allow cases to be traced from beneficiary proposals through verification, decisions, delivery, and participation review. It focuses on stages where information is available but follow-up cannot be verified through public



documents. Missing evidence of follow-up is treated as a limit of the assessment, not as proof that implementers failed to act.

Research objectives

This study aims to analyze the implementation of social assistance policy for poverty reduction in Sleman Regency, identify support and problems at the interfaces between service stages, and formulate improvements and monitoring measures. The research questions address alignment between policy objectives and implementation, data updating mechanisms, beneficiaries' access to services, and the role of graduation in improving welfare. PKH receives the most attention because it has the most substantial local evidence. Food assistance serves as a comparison for delivery mechanisms, while other social assistance programs are discussed only in relation to data governance and coordination.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Policy implementation and interorganizational relationships

The Van Meter and Van Horn model explains implementation through six dimensions: policy standards and objectives; resources; interorganizational communication and enforcement activities; characteristics of implementing agencies; implementers' disposition; and economic, social, and political conditions (Van Meter & Van Horn, 1975). In this study, these dimensions guide questions posed to the documents. Regulations are examined under standards, while task allocation and follow-up of proposals are examined under communication and organizational characteristics. The analysis does not assign performance scores because comparable data across implementation units are unavailable.

This framework fits social assistance because implementation involves decision-makers, data managers, facilitators, delivery providers, and local government. Each actor may complete its own administrative task while beneficiaries' needs remain unresolved if the outputs are not connected. A social protection delivery systems approach treats registration, assessment, enrollment, benefit provision, and beneficiary change management as one service chain (Lindert et al., 2020). This article uses that chain to identify points of interorganizational coordination in Sleman.



Targeting accuracy and administrative burden

Targeting accuracy involves two distinct problems. Inclusion error occurs when an ineligible person receives assistance; exclusion error occurs when an eligible person is not reached. Targeting decisions must balance program objectives, administrative capacity, and budget constraints. The World Bank emphasizes that no single targeting method suits all circumstances and that technology cannot replace sound data and accessible service systems (World Bank, 2022).

Community participation can enrich information about changes in household circumstances. An experiment in Indonesian villages found higher satisfaction with community targeting, although its accuracy against consumption measures was not always better than proxy means testing (Alatas et al., 2012). This finding supports the use of kalurahan deliberation forums to review information and explain decisions. Such forums still require consistent criteria, documented reasons, and an opportunity to appeal so that disagreements can be addressed openly.

The concept of administrative burden encompasses learning costs, compliance costs, and psychological costs in citizens' interactions with the state (Moynihan et al., 2015). In social assistance, these costs may arise from difficulty understanding enrollment status, time spent preparing documents, or reluctance to challenge a decision. The three categories are used analytically rather than assumed to describe every beneficiary in Sleman. Digital services should be assessed by how they change citizens' burdens, including whether support remains available for beneficiaries who cannot use the application independently.

Social protection and the sustainability of welfare

Social assistance can protect consumption and support the use of education and health services. Sustained income gains require separate assessment. PKH evaluations show that improvements in human capital do not automatically produce broad economic change within beneficiary households (Cahyadi et al., 2020). Graduation based on improved welfare must therefore be distinguished from program exit caused by a change in household composition or an administrative reason. The 2026 PKH regulation also addresses evaluation, termination, graduation, and grievances as components of program governance (Kementerian Sosial Republik Indonesia, 2026).



This study uses service continuity to describe connections across stages of assistance. Relevant measures include the clarity of beneficiary decisions, reconcilable benefit delivery, resolution of complaints, and follow-up after enrollment changes. This formulation is an analytical lens developed for the case. Its relationship with poverty reduction remains a proposition to be tested with household data, rather than an established impact model.

METHODOLOGY

Case design and boundaries

The study uses a qualitative case study based on document analysis, supplemented by descriptive processing of poverty indicators. Document analysis allows the content, publication purpose, and relationships among sources to be examined systematically (Bowen, 2009). The case is limited to social assistance governance in Sleman Regency, with primary attention to documents published from 2023 through 12 September 2026. Statistical comparisons use March 2024 and March 2025. Policies and activities in 2026 are analyzed as implementation developments after those statistical measurement periods.

Data sources and document selection

The primary empirical corpus comprises nine sources: one BPS publication, one metadata record for a Social Service data collection activity, four national and local regulations issued in 2023-2026, two local government activity reports from 2026, and one research article on PKH in Sumberharjo. Two historical sources, the 2018 PKH regulation and a 2013 study in Gamping, provide context for change. Ten further sources support theory, methodology, program evaluation comparisons, and explanations of the data system. Separating these functions prevents theory from being used as evidence of local implementation.



Table 1. Composition and analytical functions of the primary empirical corpus

Source group	Count	Function in the study
2025 BPS poverty publication	1	Macro context and comparison of indicators for March 2024-2025
2025 Social Service data collection metadata	1	Purpose and characteristics of administrative household data collection
Regulations issued in 2023-2026	4	Regency Regulation No. 5/2023, Presidential Instruction No. 4/2025, and Minister of Social Affairs Regulations Nos. 3/2025 and 8/2026
2026 local government activity reports	2	Margorejo data-updating deliberation and digitalization pilot
2024 Sumberharjo research article	1	Findings on PKH implementation in one kalurahan
Total primary corpus	9	Supplemented by 2 historical sources and 10 analytical or contextual sources

Source: Research document inventory. The reference list contains all 21 sources.

Documents were identified through the BPS and SiRusa websites, the BPK regulation database, Sleman Regency Government portals, publisher websites, and academic repositories. Search terms included "Sleman poverty," "PKH implementation Sleman," "DTSEN Sleman," and "social assistance digitalization Sleman." Sources were selected when their publisher or author, publication date, and content could be related to the research questions. General promotional news and writings without verifiable references were not used as primary evidence. The search was purposive for a case study; it does not claim to be a systematic review of all publications.

Data collection and analysis

Information was extracted into a matrix recording the publisher, year, location, source type, finding, implementation dimension, and limit of inference. Poverty figures were checked against their units and measurement periods. Statements about program rules were separated

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from activity reports and findings from prior research. Publications available only as abstracts or metadata were used only for the information displayed; inaccessible interview details, samples, and results were not reconstructed.

Thematic analysis involved reading the sources, coding information, grouping evidence under the six implementation dimensions, examining relationships among themes, and developing interpretations. The process followed principles of thematic analysis that require clear connections among data, themes, and explanations (Braun & Clarke, 2006). Administrative burden categories were applied when evidence concerned access or service requirements. Coding was conducted on the available documents without an intercoder agreement test. Conclusions are presented as a synthesis of documents, not as findings from new interviews or direct observation.

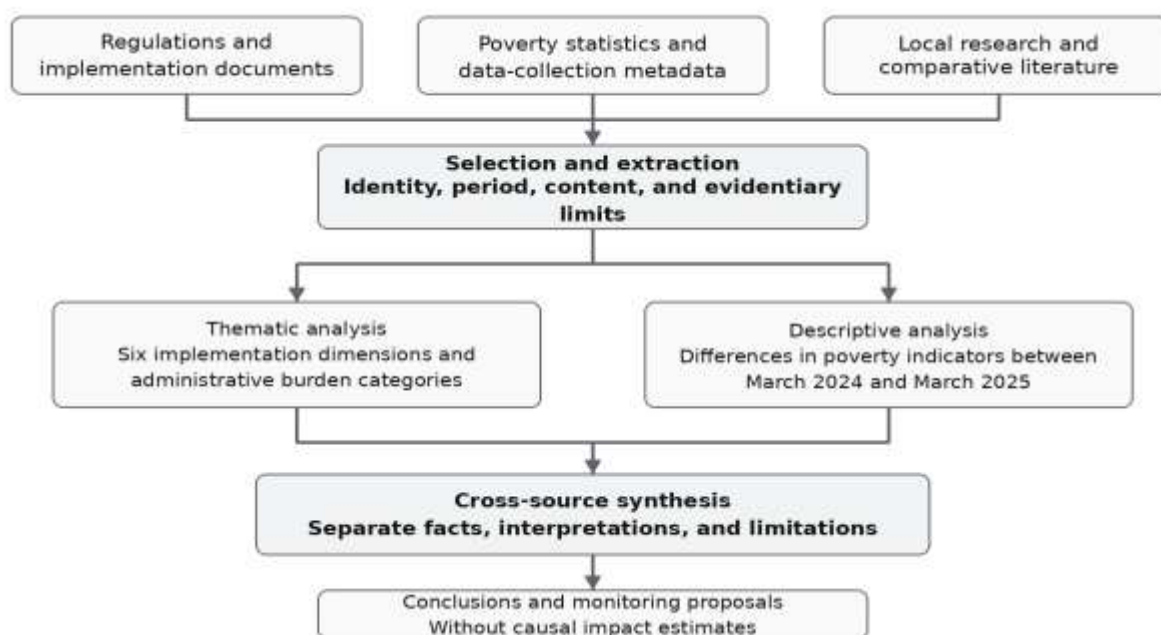


Figure 1. Flow of document analysis and poverty statistics

Source: Research analysis design.

Quantitative analysis was limited to differences between periods. Changes in the poverty rate were calculated in percentage points, while changes in the number of people in poverty were expressed in thousands. The poverty gap and poverty severity indices were treated as population indicators. The study does not use regression, significance tests, or a comparison group and

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therefore does not estimate the causal effect of social assistance. BPS macro estimates are not equated with the number of households in administrative beneficiary databases.

Validity of evidence and ethical considerations

The validity of the analysis was strengthened by comparing the function of each source. BPS statistics describe aggregate conditions; regulations establish authority and procedures; local studies explain implementation at their study sites; and activity reports document actions reported by government. Agreement among sources strengthens an interpretation, while differences in period and scope remain explicit. Historical references are not used to establish conditions in 2026. The study uses public information and does not process beneficiaries' names, national identification numbers, bank accounts, or other personal data.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Trends in poverty and limits of program assessment

Table 2. Poverty indicators in Sleman Regency in March 2024 and March 2025

Indicator	2024	2025	Change
People living in poverty (thousand)	97.94	89.28	-8.66 thousand people
Poverty rate (%)	7.46	6.71	-0.75 percentage points
Poverty line (IDR/person/month)	513,926	534,300	+20,374
Poverty gap index (P1)	1.21	0.76	-0.45 index points
Poverty severity index (P2)	0.27	0.14	-0.13 index points

Source: (Badan Pusat Statistik Kabupaten Sleman, 2025), General Overview and Poverty Quality sections; differences were calculated from the published figures. The figures are macro estimates, not counts of beneficiary households.

Table 2 shows improvements in the number, percentage, depth, and severity of poverty. The poverty line increased, so the decline in measured poverty should be interpreted alongside a change in the threshold for basic needs (Badan Pusat Statistik Kabupaten Sleman, 2025). The

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change in the poverty rate is 6.71 minus 7.46, or -0.75 percentage points. The number of people in poverty decreased by 8.66 thousand. Because this is a change in an aggregate estimate, it cannot be interpreted as 8.66 thousand beneficiaries successfully graduating from assistance. BPS poverty statistics and social assistance administration serve different measurement purposes. Poverty statistics classify the population by expenditure relative to the poverty line, whereas Social Service data collection identifies poor and vulnerable households for policy purposes. The metadata for Sleman's 2025 data collection describes a sectoral statistical activity based on a complete enumeration (Dinas Sosial Kabupaten Sleman, 2025). Both sources can inform planning, but analysis must preserve their different units of measurement (individuals and households, respectively) and different eligibility criteria.

Changes in the economy, employment opportunities, prices of basic necessities, and other public policies are alternative explanations that an impact study would need to consider. Data from two periods cannot isolate each factor's influence. This article assesses social assistance through its implementation process. The approach allows improving poverty indicators to be considered without obscuring documented service problems or attributing every improvement to a single program.

Policy standards during the transition in data systems and program rules

The regulatory corpus shows that formal foundations for poverty reduction and assistance management are in place. The 2023 Sleman Regency Regulation provides a local framework, while the 2025 Presidential Instruction on DTSEN directs national data integration (Pemerintah Kabupaten Sleman, 2023; Presiden Republik Indonesia, 2025). Minister of Social Affairs Regulation No. 3 of 2025 replaced the 2021 rules on DTKS (Kementerian Sosial Republik Indonesia, 2025). These changes clarify the direction of data use but do not prove that every beneficiary record is current. The transition should be evaluated through the processing of data changes proposed by residents or implementers.

The updated PKH regulation must be interpreted chronologically. Minister of Social Affairs Regulation No. 1 of 2018 provides a historical reference for program implementation, whereas Regulation No. 8 of 2026 took effect on 13 August 2026. Implementing provisions under the former regulation remain valid insofar as they do not conflict with the new regulation (Kementerian Sosial Republik Indonesia, 2018, 2026). The Sumberharjo study, published in 2024, therefore cannot be assessed as a compliance test against the 2026 rules. This article uses it to



identify implementation problems and treats the latest regulation as the context for improvement.

Within the standards and objectives dimension, the analytical issue is how regulatory changes are translated into comprehensible information. Residents need to distinguish among being listed in a database, meeting a program's eligibility criteria, and being formally selected as a beneficiary. Treating the three statuses as equivalent can create expectations that do not match the selection process. Service information should state the proposal's status, the reasons for a decision, and available correction or appeal routes. This recommendation follows from the need for process accountability; it is not based on a measurement of residents' understanding.

Data updating and follow-up of decisions

A deliberation forum in Kalurahan Margorejo on 17 June 2026 illustrates local data updating. A government publication reported 21 proposals to add records and 34 proposals to remove them, with proposed removals attributed to improved economic circumstances, civil-servant status, and changes in household composition (Media Center Sembada, 2026a). These figures represent proposals made by the forum. The documents reviewed do not establish that every proposal was approved in DTSEN or changed an assistance decision. The distinction between a proposal and a final decision is therefore central to tracing implementation.

The Margorejo case shows how local information can enter the updating process. Its implications are limited: one deliberation forum does not represent the quality of practice across all kalurahan. Proposed removals also do not all indicate successful movement out of poverty. Changes in administrative status, migration, or household composition require separate categories. Counting every removal as a graduation would produce an indicator that does not correspond to improved welfare.

Follow-up can be made traceable through proposal numbers and status-change records. Each proposal should record the dates of receipt and review, the decision and its reason, and notification to the applicant. Access to personal identities should be restricted by authority level, while aggregate process summaries can be published. This approach is consistent with DTSEN's direction as an integrated and current database (Kementerian Perencanaan Pembangunan Nasional/Bappenas, n.d.). Useful measures include processing time and the proportion of proposals that receive an explained decision, rather than only the number of updated entries.



Resources and the role of facilitators

The Sumberharjo study reports that facilitators helped monitor the use of assistance and supported activities to strengthen household capabilities, while some beneficiaries did not meet attendance obligations (Widianingrum & Wahyuni, 2024). This evidence shows the role of facilitation in implementation but does not support an estimate of whether the number of facilitators is adequate across Sleman. The corpus contains no comparable caseload ratios across areas, detailed operating costs, or time-use data for resolving corrections. The available evidence therefore cannot establish whether regency resources are sufficient or insufficient.

Facilitators perform varied tasks, from explaining requirements to tracing assistance that has not been received. Activity records should distinguish time spent on verification, family development sessions, and complaint resolution. Meeting counts alone do not show whether beneficiary needs were resolved. Local government can assess resource adequacy through active caseloads, travel distances, and resolution times. These measures connect implementation capacity to the work that must actually be completed.

Findings from Gamping in 2013 on communication among facilitators, beneficiaries, and service facilities provide a conceptual basis for maintaining these links (Kurniawan, 2013). The historical source does not prove that practice remained unchanged through 2026. Its relevance lies in the need for cross-service coordination. When program conditions relate to education or health, implementers should distinguish absence by choice from absence caused by access barriers. Case records and communication with service providers are needed to support that distinction.

Organizational coordination and accountability for benefit delivery

The document synthesis identifies regulations, data collection, facilitation, and data-updating forums. Their relationships cannot yet be assessed through a single performance measure. A social protection delivery systems perspective helps examine the process from citizens' needs (Lindert et al., 2020). A completed proposal requires a decision; an eligibility decision requires benefit delivery; a disputed delivery requires reconciliation; and a change in participation requires explanation. Each transition needs an accountable actor and evidence of follow-up.



Table 3. Synthesis of evidence by implementation dimension

Dimension	Identified evidence	Limit of assessment
Standards and objectives	Local framework, DTSEN rules, and updated PKH regulation (Kementerian Sosial Republik Indonesia, 2025, 2026; Pemerintah Kabupaten Sleman, 2023)	Consistency of implementation across units has not been measured
Resources	Facilitators' role documented in the Sumberharjo study (Widianingrum & Wahyuni, 2024)	Comparable caseload ratios and operating-cost adequacy are unavailable
Interorganizational communication	Margorejo forum produced data-change proposals (Media Center Sembada, 2026a)	Follow-up from proposals to final decisions cannot be traced
Characteristics of implementing agencies	Local data collection and development of digital proposal channels (Dinas Sosial Kabupaten Sleman, 2025; Media Center Sembada, 2026b)	Links across service processes have not been evaluated comprehensively
Implementers' disposition	Facilitation was assessed as supportive at the study site (Widianingrum & Wahyuni, 2024)	The disposition of all regency implementers cannot be generalized
Economic, social, and political conditions	Aggregate poverty indicators improved (Badan Pusat Statistik Kabupaten Sleman, 2025)	Program effects and local political dynamics have not been identified

Source: Document analysis using the dimensions of Van Meter and Van Horn (Van Meter & Van Horn, 1975). The matrix is not a compliance assessment or a performance score for Sleman Regency as a whole.

Table 3 shows that the strength of evidence varies across implementation dimensions. Regulatory foundations and examples of activity are relatively clear, whereas the disposition of all implementers, resource adequacy, and the quality of grievance follow-up remain unmeasured.

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The evaluation problem therefore lies partly in the quality of process information. More activity reports will not resolve it unless records state what was decided, how long problems took to resolve, and whether beneficiaries received the benefits for which they were approved.

An evaluation of food assistance in Indonesia found that delivery design affects the benefit actually received by targeted households (Banerjee et al., 2023). For Sleman, the implication is the need to reconcile entitlements, actual delivery, and transaction problems. Data should record scheduled recipients, recipients who actually received the benefit, the amount delivered, and reasons for failure or delay. This article does not report a regency-wide delivery success rate because the corpus contains no comparable summary.

Service access during social assistance digitalization

A government publication in March 2026 identified Sleman as a pilot site for social assistance digitalization and described the Perlinsos application for self-submitted proposals (Media Center Sembada, 2026b). This information indicates the direction of service development, not the effect of digitalization. The documents provide neither a before-and-after comparison of service times nor the proportion of users who completed a proposal. Launch and outreach activities alone cannot establish the application's success.

Digitalization may reduce office visits when residents understand the procedure and can complete an application. Learning, compliance, and psychological burdens remain relevant to assessing access (Moynihan et al., 2015). Local government should provide application assistance and an in-person channel for residents who need additional support. These channels should be monitored through case completion, not merely application-user counts. This is an analytical implication for service design; it does not assume a particular level of digital literacy among Sleman's beneficiaries.

Grievances also require decisions that people can understand. A response that the data are incorrect should identify what must be corrected and who will process the change. Beneficiaries should receive proof of submission and notification of the outcome. When a correction is rejected, the reason and an appeal route should be available. Strengthening these mechanisms gives citizens' experiences an oversight function and provides information for improving procedures that repeatedly cause problems.



Graduation and the relationship between assistance and empowerment

Graduation should be treated as a decision following a change in household circumstances. A household may leave the beneficiary list because its welfare improved, but also because a program component changed or an administrative record was corrected. The 2026 PKH regulation provides the latest context for distinguishing participation review, termination, and graduation (Kementerian Sosial Republik Indonesia, 2026). The Sleman corpus contains no longitudinal data to determine whether households that leave the program continue to meet their basic needs after assistance ends.

Empowerment referrals should reflect beneficiaries' capabilities and needs. Working-age households may be referred to training, employment opportunities, or business support after their needs and eligibility have been assessed. Older people and persons with disabilities who require continuing protection should not be evaluated against a uniform target of economic independence. Targeting principles that align program objectives with beneficiary circumstances support this distinction (World Bank, 2022). This article proposes post-graduation monitoring as an evaluation need; it does not claim that such a scheme has been implemented throughout Sleman.

Measures of successful graduation should record the reason for exit, access to livelihood sources, and continued ability to meet basic needs. Reviews at six and twelve months could be considered after government defines the required resources and operational criteria. Re-registration should offer a route back into protection for households that experience a shock. These time intervals are proposed by the study. Baseline information should precede performance targets so that implementers are not encouraged to accelerate exits merely to meet a numerical quota.

Policy implications and monitoring measures

The synthesis points to improvements in links between processes that can be verified. Program managers should agree on accountability for each case status, while local government can use cross-program summaries to identify recurring problems. Monitoring must distinguish service performance from welfare outcomes. Faster response times provide information about administration; changes in poverty require separate evidence. The following measures form an evaluation framework derived from the analysis and are not claimed as official standards of Sleman Regency.



Table 4. Proposed measures for monitoring social assistance implementation

Focus	Measure	Data and use
Follow-up of proposals	Median days from a complete proposal to a decision; proportion of proposals that receive a decision	Date of each status; identification of case backlogs
Benefit delivery	Beneficiaries receiving benefits divided by scheduled beneficiaries in the same period	Entitlement and delivery records; distinguish failure, delay, and correction
Complaint resolution	Complaints resolved with notification of outcome divided by complaints due for resolution	Grievance register; time and reason for resolution
Service access	Proportion of completed submissions through self-service and assisted channels	Service logs without published identities; improvements to access assistance
Sustainable graduation	Categorized reasons for exit; reassessment of basic needs at 6 and 12 months	Participation history and follow-up visits
Targeting accuracy	Inclusion and exclusion errors calculated only after a valid eligibility benchmark is available	Sample verification; denominator matched to the population of beneficiaries or eligible residents

Source: Author's proposal based on the synthesis. Baseline values and targets have not been established; the 6- and 12-month periods are proposed monitoring intervals, not program rules.

The first priority is to connect existing process data so that decisions can be traced without repeatedly requesting the same documents. Consistent case identifiers can link proposals, delivery complaints, and follow-up. Performance summaries should distinguish completed cases, cases still in process, and cases requiring further review. Reporting by access needs and location

can help target assistance, provided that published information does not disclose beneficiaries' personal data.

Contributions and limitations

The study contributes an implementation analysis that connects institutional dimensions with beneficiaries' service pathways during changes in regulation and data systems. Local evidence documents implementation activities, while examination of subsequent stages identifies more specific information needs. Traceability translates those needs into indicators that can be collected. The contribution is analytical and operational; whether the proposed indicators predict welfare outcomes still requires testing.

The main limitation is reliance on public documents that do not cover all beneficiary experiences or all programs. Some sources are abstracts, metadata, or activity reports, so the depth of assessment varies. Local studies represent only their sites and periods, while government publications may emphasize activities that were completed. The corpus contains no microdata on beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries, complete payment histories, or post-graduation data. Future research could test the findings through interviews across implementing actors, case tracing of grievances, and longitudinal household data with identity safeguards.

CONCLUSION

Social assistance policy implementation in Sleman Regency is supported by a regulatory framework, data collection activities, PKH facilitators, and data-updating forums at the kalurahan level. Improvements in poverty indicators during 2024-2025 provide a favorable context but do not demonstrate a causal effect of social assistance. The clearest available evidence documents activities and specific problems at the study sites. More detailed data are still needed to assess resource adequacy, the quality of benefit delivery across the regency, the speed of data corrections, and welfare after graduation.

The study addresses implementation by making service continuity its central concern. Data changes must be traced through to decisions, beneficiary entitlements through to actual delivery, and grievances through to notification of outcomes. Digital services require assistance that allows residents to use channels suited to their needs. Graduation evaluation should distinguish administrative exits from improved welfare and should allow families whose circumstances deteriorate to regain access to protection.



Local government should prioritize records of proposal status, benefit reconciliation, and auditable grievance resolution. Empowerment referrals should be based on household circumstances and followed by post-graduation monitoring. Future research can apply the proposed indicators to examine the relationship between service quality and sustained welfare. Such analysis would clarify social assistance's contribution to poverty reduction without conflating administrative achievements with changes in beneficiaries' lives.

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