

# The Influence of Fund Management "Small Grant" Program by Ngo-Kff Towards Community Empowerment and Community Welfare (Study of the Hera Village Community, Cristo-Rei Sub District, Dili District)

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## ABSTRACT

This research aims to analyze and explain the influence of the Fund Management Small Grant Program by NGO KFF on Community Empowerment and community welfare of the Hera Village community. The population in this research was 4,135 people. The sampling technique is by using a purposive sampling method with a sample size of 90 respondents who have criteria such as aged 17 years or over, able to read and write, and having access to the fund. The data collection method uses a questionnaire. Data analysis used simple linear regression analysis with the SPSS program version 2.0. The research results show that; 1) the fund management variable has a positive and significant effect on community empowerment and 2) fund management has a positive and significant effect on community welfare.

**Keywords:** fund management, community empowerment, community welfare

## I. INTRODUCTION

Development has enormous potential benefits for the economy, socio-culture, and the environment. Development can provide benefits to society, but on the other hand, if it is not managed well, it will cause losses. National and regional development is not only aimed at material development but also seeks to improve community welfare. The government has implemented many projects to encourage the acceleration of village development but has not achieved significant results in improving the welfare of rural communities.

Flora and Fauna Conservation, hereinafter abbreviated as (KFF), is a nonprofit organization that was founded in Dili in 2014. KFF had the idea to carry out a rehabilitation project for *mangroves* from 2017 to 2018. Connection research conducted by the KFF organization for six months shows that the condition of the forest mangrove continues to decline every year and several species of *mangroves* starting to be threatened with extinction. Based on

these results, KFF began taking action to create a center point in Hera Village in 2016 and has launched the planting of mangrove seeds in Hera Village.

As a non-profit organization, KFF receives financial donations from the *United Nations Development Program* (UNDP) which is referred to by the term *Small Grant Program* with the aim of protecting mangrove forests, rehabilitating damaged mangrove forests, establishing a mangrove study center, and increasing the knowledge of the community and school children in Aldeia Sukaer Laran, Hera Village, Dili Municipality. To be able to implement a good financial fund management process, responsibility is needed to carry out the process of managing funds and other assets in a way that is considered positive (Ida & Dwinta, 2010). The process of managing financial funds is an important activity to be carried out in an organization.

Empowerment is a process of developing, becoming independent, self-sufficient, and strengthening the bargaining position of the lower levels of society against pressing forces in all fields and sectors of life (Eco, 2014). The direction for empowering village communities that is most effective and faster to achieve goals is by involving the community and elements of government that have more reactive development policies that prioritize the needs of village communities in budget allocations so that they are able to utilize the potential of their respective regions.

Fund management must also provide maximum benefits by prioritizing development and empowerment activities for village communities that are urgent to be implemented, and are more needed and directly related to the interests of the majority of village communities. In line with the goals of development and empowerment of village communities, the selected funded activities must ensure their usefulness in improving the quality of health, education, and culture. Increase employment opportunities and family economic income, and increase poverty reduction through meeting the needs of poor residents in villages. Empirical evidence from Fathony & Sopian, (2019) states that village fund allocation has a positive and significant influence on community empowerment and welfare. Apart from that, research results from Luju, et.al, (2020) show that Village Fund Management has a significant effect on Community Empowerment and Village Fund Allocation Management has a significant effect on Community Welfare.

Hera Village Community Development is directed at optimally utilizing the potential of natural resources and human resource development by improving the quality of life, skills, and initiatives with guidance and assistance from the government and national and international NGOs, in this case, the KFF organization. Therefore, researchers prefer to research this program because if these funds are managed well and honestly then the development results will be seen more clearly and vice versa. The aim of providing funds in Hera Village, Nain-Feto District, Dili District is to empower the community in this village to be more independent than before so that people at the individual, group, institutional, and community levels have better welfare than before.

Based on the results of observations before research conducted by the author on the KFF organization, which in this case manages funds intended for the empowerment and welfare of village communities, it appears that there is still misuse of the budget for other activities, KFF staff have not worked in accordance with instructions or standard operational procedures in this regard. allocation of funds, and also a lack of knowledge regarding the use and

allocation of funds. Apart from that, the Hera village community has not been empowered optimally, there is a lack of training and empowerment for the community. Based on the background described in the previous sub-chapter, this research has objectives which include the following: 1). To test and determine the effect of Fund Management Small Grant Program by NGO KFF towards Community Empowerment, and 2). to find out how the impact of fund management Small Grant Program by NGO KFF for Community Welfare.

## **II. LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **A. Public Financial Management**

Public financial management can be defined as a system for generating and controlling public financial resources for effective and efficient public services. Public financial management includes planning and budgeting, accounting and reporting, internal control, audit, and external supervision, among others with the aim of increasing the availability of benefits for the largest number of citizens; supporting good governance (good governance); and facilitating the achievement of fiscal aggregate discipline budget objectives, effective allocation of resources for priorities and efficient services (Hamid, 2013). Public financial management can also be interpreted as the administration of funds used to provide public services. Public financial management is a specialized field within the larger discipline of financial management, focused on delivering services as effectively and efficiently as possible to maximize benefits for society. Specialists or experts in certain fields may participate directly in agency administration, regulatory development, policy development, and enforcement of the regulatory framework used to control public spending.

### **B. Financial Funds**

Ngoc and Puong, (2015) proposed financial fund management behavior as determining, acquiring, allocating, and utilizing financial resources. Overall, it is described that fund management or financial management behavior is a form of financial decision-making, harmonization of individual motives, and company development goals. According to Sartono, (2015), Financial management can be interpreted as good fund management which is related to allocating funds in various forms of investment effectively and collecting efforts to finance investment or learning efficiently. According to Anwar, (2019), financial management is a scientific discipline that studies company financial management both in terms of finding sources of funds, allocating funds, and sharing company profits. Meanwhile, according to Wijaya, (2017:2), the scope of financial management is related to financial management such as budgeting, financial planning, cash, credit, investment analysis, and efforts to obtain funds.

### **C. Community Empowerment**

According to Sedarmayanti, (2013) literally, the word empowerment can be interpreted as: "More empowered than before, both in terms of authority, responsibility, and individual abilities. Empowerment is a change that occurs in management philosophy, which helps create an environment where each individual can use their abilities and

energy to achieve organizational goals. So, empowerment can encourage initiative and response so that all problems faced can be resolved quickly and flexibly.

The concept of empowerment shows two tendencies, namely: "Empowerment emphasizes the process of giving or transferring some power, strength or ability (*power*) to society, organizations or individuals to become more empowered. This process is often referred to as the primary tendency of the meaning of empowerment: Emphasizing the process of stimulating, encouraging, and motivating individuals to have the ability or empowerment to determine their life choices. This process is often referred to as a secondary tendency of the meaning of empowerment. Village community empowerment includes activities aimed at increasing the capacity of residents or village communities to develop entrepreneurship, increasing community income, as well as expanding the economic scale of individual residents or community groups and villages. According to Sedarmayanti, (2014) measuring community empowerment uses 4 dimensions, namely ability, trust, authority, and responsibility.

#### **D. Community welfare**

According to Fahrudin in Fathony & Sopian, (2019) states that: "Welfare is a condition where a person can fulfill basic needs, be it the need for food, clothing, shelter, clean drinking water as well as the opportunity to continue education and have adequate work which can support the quality of his life so that his life is free from poverty, ignorance, fear or worry so that his life is safe, peaceful, both physically and mentally." The welfare of the lower middle class can be presented from the level of life of the community, the level of life of the community is characterized by the eradication of poverty, a better level of health, the attainment of a higher level of education, and the level of community productivity. Community welfare is one of the ultimate goals of realizing effective and efficient government in the context of creating fiscal decentralization (Dewi & Sutrisna, 2014). Welfare indicators according to (Soetomo, (2014:48) contain three components, namely: 1), Social-justice contains a number of indicators, namely: education, health, access to electricity and water, poor people, 2). Economic justice contains a number of indicators, namely: income, home ownership, level of expenditure, and 3). Democratic justice contains a number of indicators, namely: a sense of security and access to information.

### **III. CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK**

Umar Sekaran in his book Business Research, 1992 in (Sugiyono, 2010) suggests that the framework of thinking is a conceptual model of how theory relates to various factors that have been identified as important problems. A good framework will explain theoretically the relationship between the variables to be studied. So theoretically it is necessary to explain the relationship between the independent variable and the dependent variable. The relationship between these variables is then formulated in the form of a research paradigm. Therefore, each research paradigm must be based on a framework of thought (Sugiyono, 2010:60). Thus, the conceptual framework of Fund allocation, Community empowerment and Community Welfare can be described in the modeling as follows:

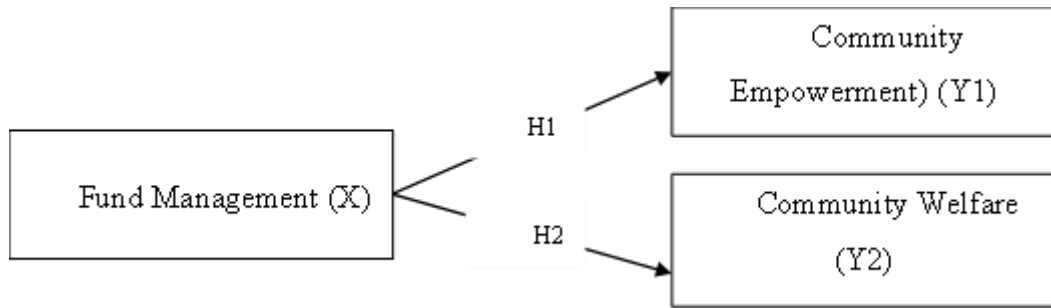


Figure 1. Conceptual Framework

#### IV. RESEARCH METHOD

The study was conducted at the ONG Conservation Flora and Fauna, Hera, Dili, Timor-Leste. The population in this study was all society from Hera Village with a population are 4.135. This research uses *non - probability sampling* which is a purposive *sampling method*. The samples taken were from society who are able to read, write, and have access to the fund as many as 90 respondents. The data collection method in this study used a questionnaire with a *Likert* (5 scale). This study tested the validity and reliability of the instrument and used an analytical technique, namely simple regression.

#### V. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

##### A. FINDINGS

##### 1) The Effect of Fund Management on Community Empowerment

Simple linear regression analysis is a linear relationship between one independent variable and one or more dependent variables, to determine the rise and fall of the variable under study. The results of simple linear regression analysis in this study used the SPSS 2.0 application.

Table 1. Simple Linear Regression Analysis

Coefficients <sup>a</sup>						
Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.	
	B	Std. Error	Beta			
1	(Constant)	2.987	1.962		1.522	.132
	Fund Management	.849	.088	.718	9.678	.000

a. Dependent Variable: Community Empowerment

Based on the processing results in the table above, a simple regression equation is obtained as follows:

$$Y = a + bX$$

$$Y = 2.987 + 0.849X$$

From the equation above, it can be explained that:

1. A constant with a value of 2.987 indicates that if there is no independent variable ( $X = 0$ ), then Community Empowerment is 2.987.
2.  $b_1$  of 0.849 is positive, this shows that every 1% increase in Fund Management will be followed by an increase in Community Empowerment of 84.9%.

**2) Correlation coefficient**

To ensure whether or not the relationship between Fund Management (X) and Community Empowerment (Y1) is strong, it is necessary to know the magnitude of the correlation coefficient. Below is a table of correlation coefficient calculation results (*Product Moment*) obtained from data processing with SPSS programs version 20 for Windows:

**Table 2. Correlation Coefficient for Fund Management (X) with Community Empowerment (Y1)**

Correlations			
		Fund Management	Community empowerment
Fund Management	Pearson Correlation	1	.718**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	90	90
Community Empowerment	Pearson Correlation	.718**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	90	90
**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).			

Based on calculations, we can see that the correlation coefficient is 0.718. To ensure whether or not the relationship between Fund Management (X) and Community Empowerment (Y1) is strong. Based on the correlation criteria table, including correlation values between 0.60 – 0.799, there is a strong relationship. Because the results are positive, it can be concluded that every increase in Fund Management (X) will be followed by an increase in Community Empowerment (Y1).

**3) The Coefficient Determinant**

The coefficient of determination is also called the determining coefficient because the magnitude of the coefficient of determination can be obtained by squaring the correlation coefficient. So, this coefficient is very useful for knowing the magnitude of the contribution of Fund Management (X) to Community Empowerment (Y1). The following table presents the results of calculating the coefficient of determination based on the program *SPSS version 20 for Windows*:

**Table 3. Determination Coefficient**

Model Summary				
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.718 <sup>a</sup>	.516	.510	2.687
a. Predictors: (Constant), Funds Management				

Based on the table above, it can be seen that the R-Square value or what is usually called the coefficient of determination obtained is 0.516, meaning that 51.6% of the variation that occurs in the level of Community Empowerment is caused by the Fund Management variable (X), while the remainder is 48.4 % explained by other variables not taken into account in this study, with standard errors or *Standard error of the estimate*,  $Se = 2.687$ .

**4) Hypothesis Test t (t-Test)**

According to Ghozali, (2016), the t-test basically shows how far the influence of an independent variable individually is in explaining variations in the dependent variable. Partial test results can be seen in the table below:

**Table 4. t-test results of the influence of fund allocation (X) on Community Empowerment (Y1)**

Coefficients <sup>a</sup>						
Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	2.987	1.962		1.522	.132
	Fund Management	.849	.088	.718	9.678	.000
a. Dependent Variable: Community Empowerment						

Based on the table, the t-value can be obtained amounting to 9,678 with a Sig value of 0.000. This shows that the t-value-count is greater than the t-value table with dk 88 ( $n - 2 = 90 - 2$ ) and a significance level of 0.05, we get 1.987 because the t-count is greater than the t-table, so  $H_0$  is rejected and  $H_a$  is accepted. Thus, the decision was taken that Fund Management (X) has a significant influence on Community Empowerment (Y) in the Hera Village, Dili Timor Leste.

5) *The Influence of Fund Management on Community Welfare*

The results of a simple linear regression analysis of the influence of fund management on community welfare (Y2) can be seen in the table below:

Table 5. Simple Linear Regression Analysis

Coefficients <sup>a</sup>						
Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.	
	B	Std. Error	Beta			
1	(Constant)	7.948	1.845		4.309	.000
	Fund Management	.657	.082	.647	7.965	.000

a. Dependent Variable: Community Welfare

Source: Questionnaire data processed in 2022

Based on the processing results in Table above, the following simple regression equation is obtained:

$$Y = a + bX$$

$$Y = 7.948 + 0.657X$$

From the equation above, it can be explained that:

1. A constant with a value of 7.948 indicates that if there are no independent variables (X = 0), then Community Welfare (Y2) is 7.948.
2. b<sub>1</sub> of 0.657 is positive, this shows that every 1% increase in Fund Management will be followed by an increase in Community Welfare of 65.7%.

6) *Correlation coefficient*

To ensure whether or not the relationship between Fund Management (X) and Community Welfare (Y2) is strong, it is necessary to know the magnitude of the correlation coefficient. Below is a table of correlation coefficient calculation results (*Product Moment*) obtained from data processing with SPSS programs version 20 for Windows:

Table 6. Correlation Coefficients for Fund Management Variables (X) with Community Welfare (Y2)

Correlations			
		Fund Management	Community Welfare
Fund Management	Pearson Correlation	1	.647**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000

	N	90	90
Community Welfare	Pearson Correlation	.647**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	90	90
**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).			

Based on calculations, we can see that the correlation coefficient is 0.647. To ensure whether or not the relationship between Fund Management (X) and Community Welfare (Y1) is strong. Based on the correlation criteria table, including correlation values between 0.60 – 0.799, there is a strong relationship. Because the results are positive, it can be concluded that every increase in Fund Management (X) will be followed by an increase in Community Welfare (Y2).

**7) The Coefficient Determinant**

The coefficient of determination is also called the determining coefficient because the magnitude of the coefficient of determination can be obtained by squaring the correlation coefficient. So, this coefficient is very useful for knowing the magnitude of the contribution of Fund Management (X) to Community Welfare (Y2). The following table presents the results of calculating the coefficient of determination based on the SPSS program version 20 for Windows:

**Table 7. Coefficient Determination**

Model Summary				
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.647 <sup>a</sup>	.419	.412	2.526
a. Predictors: (Constant), Funds Management				

Based on the table above, it can be seen that the R-Square value or what is usually called the coefficient of determination obtained is 0.419, meaning that 41.9% of the variation that occurs in the level of Community Welfare is caused by the Fund Management variable (X), while the remainder is 58.1 % explained by other variables not taken into account in this study, with standard errors or Standard error of the estimate, Se = 2.526.

**8) Hypothesis Test t (t-Test)**

Based on the results of the correlation coefficient between the Fund Management variable (X) and the Community Welfare variable (Y2), it is known that the relationship value is 0.647. So, the next step is to test the

influence of Fund Management (X) on Community Welfare (Y2). The following are the SPSS output results for the t-test of the influence of Fund Management (X) on Community Welfare (Y2):

**Table 8. t-test results of the influence of fund management (X) on Community Welfare (Y2)**

Coefficients <sup>a</sup>					
Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	7.948	1.845		
	Fund Management	.657	.082	.647	
a. Dependent Variable: Community Welfare					

Based on the table, the t value can be obtained as a count of 7.965 with a Sig value of 0.000. This shows that the t-value count is greater than the t-value table with dk 88 ( $n - 2 = 90 - 2$ ) and a significance level of 0.05, we get 1.987 because the t-count is greater than the t-table, so  $H_0$  is rejected and  $H_a$  is accepted. Thus, the decision was taken that Fund Management (X) has a significant influence on Community Welfare (Y) in the Hera Village, Dili Timor Leste.

## B. DISCUSSION

### 1) *The Effect of Fund Management on Community Empowerment*

Based on the results of the analysis, it was found that Fund Management and Community Empowerment had a positive relationship. This is proven by the results of the regression coefficient of 0.849, which means that every 1% increase in Fund Management will be followed by an increase in Community Empowerment of 0.849 assuming other variables remain constant. Then the correlation coefficient result of 0.718 is at a correlation value between 0.60 – 0.799 which has a strong relationship. Because the results are positive, it can be concluded that every increase in Fund Management will be followed by an increase in Community Empowerment. The influence of Fund Management on Community Empowerment in the Hera Tribe, Dili District, Timor Leste is shown by the calculation results of the Coefficient of Determination (KD) of 51.6%, while the remainder is shown by the epsilon ( $\epsilon$ ) value of 48.4%, influenced by other factors such as motivation, the role of government and so on. Then the t-test results show that Fund Management on Community Empowerment has a significant influence because t-count > t-table ( $9.6787 > 1.987$ ). Thus, it can be concluded that Fund Management has a positive and significant effect on Community Empowerment in Hera Village, Dili Timor Leste.

The results of this research are in line with the activities carried out by the NGO - KFF in empowering the community. Funds obtained from the *United Nations Development Program* (UNDP) are intended for activities that

provide positive meaning to society. So far, the empowerment activities carried out by NGO - KFF for the community include providing understanding or insight to the community to rehabilitate forest mangroves that have been damaged, prohibiting people from cutting down the forested *mangrove*, improving the community's economy by creating eco-tourism *mangrove* and provide training to the community in processing *mangrove* become food.

Empirically, the results of this research are in line with research conducted by Fathony & Sopian, (2019) which states that Village Fund Allocation has a positive and significant influence on Community Empowerment. The same results were presented by Luju, et.all (2020) that Village Fund Allocation Management has a significant effect on Community Empowerment. In addition, research results from Kede, (2019) show that the allocation of village funds in Pandanrejo village has an effect on community empowerment.

## 2) *The Influence of Fund Management on Community Welfare*

Based on the data results, it is known that fund management and community welfare have a positive relationship. This is proven by the results of the regression coefficient of 0.657, which means that every 1% increase in Fund Management will be followed by an increase in Community Empowerment of 0.657 assuming other variables remain constant. Then the correlation coefficient result of 0.647 is at a correlation value between 0.60 – 0.799 which has a strong relationship. Because the results are positive, it can be concluded that every increase in fund management will be followed by an increase in community welfare. The influence of Fund Management on Community Welfare in the Hera Tribe, Dili is shown by the calculation results of the Coefficient of Determination (KD) of 41.9%, while the remainder is shown by the epsilon ( $\epsilon$ ) value of 58.1% which is influenced by other factors such as economic and social conditions. and politics, and so on. Then the t-test results show that Fund Management on Community Welfare has a significant influence because  $t\text{-count} > t\text{-table}$  ( $7.965 > 1.987$ ). Thus, it can be concluded that Fund Management has a positive and significant effect on Community Welfare in the Hera Tribe, Dili.

The results of this research indicate that the activities managed by the NGO - KFF, Dili contribute to the prosperity of people's lives. One of the programs that helps the Hera Tribe community is planting and breeding seeds in *mangroves*. This activity is enough to help the community's economy because one seed *mangrove* is valued at \$1.00 American. Apart from that, eco-tourism activities *mangrove* The Hera tribe also contributes to the community's economy.

Empirically, the results of this research support research conducted by Luju, et.all, (2020) that Village Fund Allocation Management has a significant effect on Community Welfare. The same research results were presented by Fathony & Sopian, (2019) that Village Fund Allocations had a positive and significant influence on improving community welfare in Langonsari Village, Pameungpeuk District, Bandung Regency. Apart from that, Sumarni, (2020) research results show that managing village funds to improve welfare has a positive influence.

## VI. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### A. Conclusion

Based on the results of analysis and discussion from research conducted in the Hera Village Community, Dili Timor Leste regarding fund management by NGOs - KFF, several conclusions can be drawn as follows:

1. Fund management as reflected through transparency, accountability, and participatory indicators is able to provide a positive and significant influence on community empowerment, the Hera Tribe, Dili Timor Leste. This means the more appropriate use of funds *Small Grant Program* the better the Community Empowerment will be and vice versa.
2. Fund management as reflected through transparency, accountability, and participatory indicators is able to have a positive and significant influence on the welfare of the community, the Hera Tribe, Dili Timor Leste. This means the more effective use of funds *Small Grant Program* then the well-being of society will increase and vice versa.

### B. Suggestions

Based on the results of this research, several suggestions can be made to the NGO - KFF, Dili Timor Leste as follows:

1. It is hoped that the NGO - KFF Dili will make it easier for the public to access information or public documents regarding the management of Small Grant funds.
2. It is hoped that NGOs - KFF will involve the community in making decisions or policies related to fund management.
3. It is expected of the NGO - KFF to be fair in allocating funds to the community.
4. It is recommended that UNDP always maintain funds *Small Grant Program* allocated for Community Empowerment purposes is more effective and targeted.
5. It is hoped that future researchers will conduct research by adding other variables not discussed in this research, such as motivation, government policy, socio-economic conditions, and so on.

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