

PLAN FOR PREVENTION AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE QUALITY OF URBAN SLUMS IN BALANGAN REGENCY, SOUTH KALIMANTAN PROVINCE, INDONESIA

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study is to design a comprehensive plan to prevent and improve the quality of urban slums in Balangan Regency, South Kalimantan Province. The research utilizes both literature study and field observation to gather data. The literature study involves analyzing existing urban planning documents, government reports on housing and urban development, statistical data from local and national statistics bureaus, and academic studies related to urban settlements and their improvement. The field observation complements the literature study by providing primary data through direct engagement with the city/district governments, offering a foundational basis for further investigation. The qualitative analysis of these observations, combined with thematic analysis of interview and survey responses, allows for an in-depth understanding of the current challenges and potential solutions. The RP2KPKP document contains the background of the preparation of the RP3KP, the purpose of the planning, the review of policies related to settlements in Pandeglang Regency and the profile of settlements along with the identification of slack areas and their handling needs. Based on these findings, it was concluded that Balangans Regency has a plan to reduce the number and quality of the population of the region. The implementation of this plan is expected to have a positive impact on improving the condition of a community and improving the welfare of the people of the area as a whole. The plan has been formulated with an approach that includes active community supervision, control, and empowerment.

INTRODUCTION

Slums are still the main problem faced in urban settlement areas. The high flow of urbanization due to the accumulation of livelihood sources in urban areas is a strong enough magnet for people in rural areas (especially low-income groups/MBR, *masyarakat berpenghasilan rendah*) to work in urban areas and live in various areas of illegal land that are close to or located in the city center, until finally creating a slum environment. On the other hand, the lack of fulfillment of the minimum urban service standards (SPM) in some residential areas located on legal land also ultimately leads to the creation of slums in urban areas. Living in urban slums is not an option but a compulsion for those who have to accept the conditions of the residential environment that are not suitable and are below the minimum service standards (Banerjee, 2023; Kim et al., 2023; Mayne, 2023; Nayak & Jatav, 2023; Waheed et al., 2022) such as low quality of drinking water services, poor drainage systems, inadequate liquid waste treatment, and slow waste processing as well as other problems such as density and irregularity of buildings which further implicate the increase in danger fires and social impacts such as crime rates that tend to increase from time to time.

Slums have become one of the main issues and polemics of urban development, because the actual handling efforts from time to time have been carried out in direct proportion to the continued development of slums and the emergence of new slums. In particular, the impact of slums will also create a bad paradigm for the administration of government, by providing a negative image of the helplessness and inability of the government and local governments in regulating the services of their citizens' lives and livelihoods (Das et al., 2020; Surya et al., 2020). On the other hand, in socio-cultural order, communities living in slum neighborhoods generally include low-income groups, which is often the reason for the degradation of discipline and disorder in various social orders of society.

Prevention and improvement of the quality of slums has been mandated by Law No. 1 of 2011 concerning Housing and Settlement Areas, In addition, the handling of slums has been clearly targeted in the 2015-2019 RPJMN, where the big target is the creation of a slum-free city in 2019. The process of handling slums has started in 2015 and the zero percent target must be achieved by 2019. The first step in pursuing the 2019 slum-free city target has actually been started by the Ministry of Public Works through the Directorate General of Cipta Karya since 2014 by compiling a road map for slum management and updating slum data which is carried out collaboratively with relevant ministries/institutions and local governments throughout Indonesia.

Based on the law, the handling of slums begins with the identification of the location of the slum and the determination of the location of the slum through the Decree of the Mayor/Regent. Through this identification, the handling is carried out in accordance with Law No. 1 of 2011 concerning Housing and Settlement Areas, especially in parts VII and VIII which explain various things about the maintenance and improvement of residential areas, as well as the prevention and improvement of the quality of housing and slums with three handling patterns, namely restoration, rejuvenation and resettlement. The stages of handling slums based on Law No.1/2011 mandate that city/district governments prepare a Housing and Settlement Area Development and Development Plan (RP3KP), as well as a Plan for Prevention and Improvement of the Quality of Urban Slums (RP2KPKP), as the main instrument in efforts to handle slum problems in urban areas. The Directorate of Settlement Area Development, Directorate General of Cipta Karya through the Technical Planning Sub-Directorate provides facilitation in the form of assistance in the preparation of RP2KPKP as referred to in Regencies/Cities as a form of guidance to Regional Governments in preparing plans for handling slums in their respective districts/cities.

Previous research by Medtry et al. (2024) found that the Urban Slum Prevention and Quality Improvement Plan (RP2KPKP) is an action plan document for handling and preventing urban slums that

contains the formulation of strategies, program needs and investments to realize slum-free settlements. This RP2KPKPK document contains the background of the preparation of the RP2KPKPK, the purpose of the preparation, the review of policies related to settlements in Pandeglang Regency, an overview of settlements in Pandeglang Regency, the profile of slums in Pandeglang Regency along with the identification of slums and their handling needs. In addition, it also contains the elaboration of concepts and strategies for prevention and quality improvement; program action plan along with a detailed plan for the concept of handling slums in Pandeglang Regency.

Another study by Pujiyono et al. (2021) illustrates that coordination and integration between policies at various bureaucratic levels have not touched the technical level in solving the problem of improving the quality of urban slums. Similar research by Mardjuni et al. (2023) found that the strategy to improve the quality of slums in Tallo Village, Makassar City is to utilize communities that support government programs related to activities to improve the quality of their residential environment with the existence of the Minister of Agriculture Decree No. 534/KTPS/M/200 concerning settlement arrangements, utilizing public awareness in improving the quality of slums in accordance with the Minister of Public Works Regulation No. 2 of 2016 concerning quality improvement housing and slums, maintaining the existing road network as in the Makassar City RTRW 2015-2035 concerning the Development, Improvement, Consolidation, and Rehabilitation of the Road Network, as well as increasing the socio-economic potential of the surrounding community with community empowerment programs.

The plan to prevent and improve the quality of urban slums in Balangan Regency has significant practical implications in improving the living conditions of residents and the surrounding environment. The purpose of this study is to design a comprehensive plan to prevent and improve the quality of urban slums in Balangan Regency, South Kalimantan Province. The research is expected to make a theoretical contribution to the development of urban planning theory and research methods in the study of slums.

METHODS

The research utilized both literature study and field observation to gather data. The literature study involves analyzing existing urban planning documents, government reports on housing and urban development, statistical data from local and national statistics bureaus, and academic studies related to urban slums and their improvement. These secondary sources provide a comprehensive understanding of the broader context, historical data, and best practices from other regions or countries. Document analysis helps in identifying the underlying issues and framing the research within the existing body of knowledge, offering a foundational basis for further investigation.

Field observation complements the literature study by providing primary data through direct engagement with the urban slum areas in Balangan Regency. This involves systematic observations of the physical conditions, photographic documentation, and surveys or interviews with residents, local government officials, and urban planners. The qualitative analysis of these observations, combined with thematic analysis of interview and survey responses, allows for an in-depth understanding of the current challenges and potential solutions. Statistical analysis of survey data and GIS (Geographic Information Systems) analysis further enhance the research by mapping and visualizing slum areas, thereby offering a detailed and actionable plan for improving the quality of urban slums in the region.

RESULTS

Balangan Regency is one of the districts located in the province of South Kalimantan, Indonesia, with its capital in Paringin. This district was formed as a result of the expansion of North Hulu Sungai Regency, which was inaugurated through Law Number 2 of 2003 on February 25, 2003. In Balangan Regency, the problem of slums is still the main challenge. Some of the areas that experience this problem include Paringin Kota, the Batu Piring area, and the East Piringan area. Problems related to slums need

to be addressed immediately to improve the quality of life of the community (Sari & Ridlo, 2022). Balangan Regency is no exception.

Slums are defined as residential areas that are not habitable due to building irregularities, high building density, and the quality of buildings and infrastructure that do not meet standards (Wijaya, 2016). In general, the problems that often occur in slum areas are very small buildings, do not meet the standards to be a decent place to live, houses adjacent to each other increase the risk of fire, narrow and inadequate alleys between houses, poor drainage systems, limited clean water supply, irregular electrical installations, and lack of toilet facilities (*Mandi, Cuci, Kakus*) (Suhardi, 2018).

The impact of slum settlements can be divided into two types, namely physical impacts and social impacts (Saputra et al., 2022). The physical impact of slums on the environment includes the destruction of nature. When the environment is damaged, various diseases can emerge and attack the local community. If these diseases are not treated properly, they can lead to death. An example is uncontrolled waste disposal, which can pollute the environment and become a source of disease. On the other hand, the social impact of slums is poverty, which is caused by the lack of abilities or skills possessed by residents so that they live below the poverty line. In addition, the low level of education is also a problem because weak economic conditions make it difficult for the population to access education. This ultimately triggers a high crime rate, as the tough economic situation encourages people to commit criminal acts, such as theft and robbery, in order to meet their daily needs.

Sukmaniar et al. (2021) added that drug abuse, juvenile delinquency, and thuggery are forms of social deviation that often occur in slums. Therefore, preventive measures and improving the quality of urban slums are needed to prevent these impacts. Prevention is important so that after the quality of settlements is improved, no new slum areas will appear. Meanwhile, improving the quality of slums is an effort to improve and improve the condition of a slum area so that it becomes better and no longer slums. This effort is carried out based on the indicators and parameters of slums stipulated in the Regulation of the Minister of PUPR No. 2 of 2016.

According to the Final Report on the Preparation of the Plan for the Prevention and Improvement of the Quality of Urban Slums (RP2KPKP) in 2016 in Balangan Regency, various efforts have been made to prevent the growth and development of new housing and slums. Based on the policy studies that have been implemented, there are two main approaches to prevention efforts. First, through supervision and control. Second, by empowering the community.

The first step in preventing slums in Balangan Regency is by monitoring and control. The purpose of this step is to ensure that new housing is built in accordance with the standards and regulations that have been set, so as not to increase the number of slums. This supervision and control is carried out through three stages:

- 1) Planning stage : At this stage, supervision and control are carried out on permits which include principle permits, location permits, land use permits, building permits, and other permits in accordance with the provisions of laws and regulations. The purpose of supervision and control of this licensing is to ensure that the planned location of housing and settlements is in accordance with the spatial plan. In addition, it is also to ensure the integration of infrastructure development plans, facilities, and public utilities in accordance with applicable provisions and technical standards.
- 2) Development stage: At this stage, supervision and control are carried out on various aspects such as buildings, environmental roads, drinking water supply, environmental drainage, wastewater management, waste management, and fire protection. The purpose of this supervision is to ensure that all infrastructure built meets the established technical standards. The supervision is carried out to ensure several things. First, the service system built must be

in accordance with the provisions of applicable technical standards. Second, the quantity, capacity, and dimensions of the infrastructure built must meet the provisions of applicable technical standards. Third, the materials or materials used must be of high quality in accordance with the established technical standards. Finally, the quality of the service provided must also be in accordance with the provisions of applicable technical standards.

- 3) Utilization stage: At the stage of utilization, supervision and control are also carried out on various aspects such as buildings, environmental roads, drinking water supply, environmental drainage, liquid wastewater management (feces and fatty water), waste processing, public green open spaces and fire protection. The purpose of this supervision is to ensure that all infrastructure that has been built can be used properly in accordance with its function. Supervision and control of conformity to the feasibility of functions are carried out for several things. First, ensuring that the condition of the service system is still in accordance with its functional needs, such as the provision and access to adequate drinking water and effective drainage. Second, ensuring that the quantity, capacity, and dimensions of infrastructure are still in accordance with their respective functional needs. For example, neighborhood roads that can accommodate traffic well. Third, ensure that the materials or materials used are still of high quality and meet the set functional standards. Finally, check the functional condition of buildings and public infrastructure such as public green open spaces, as well as ensure that existing damage does not interfere with their respective functions.

The second step in efforts to prevent slums in Balangan Regency is community empowerment. Community empowerment is an effort to provide understanding to the community and invite them to actively participate in improving the quality of life. The main goal of the community empowerment process is to improve the ability and independence of the community in improving their standard of living (Kholqi, Ahsanul, 2020). Community empowerment carried out by stakeholders in the housing and residential areas through:

- 1) Assistance: Mentoring is a service to the community that includes counseling, guidance, and technical assistance. The counseling aims to increase public knowledge and awareness regarding the prevention of the growth and development of slum housing and slum settlements. Counseling can be carried out through socialization and dissemination using aids or props. Guidance is an activity that provides instructions or explanations on how to carry out or avoid certain activities related to the prevention of the growth and development of slum housing and slum settlements. Guidance can be aimed at community groups, individuals, or the business world. Meanwhile, providing technical assistance can be in the form of assistance, both physical and non-physical. Physical technical assistance is intended for the maintenance or repair of physical components that are slum parameters, such as buildings and public facilities (PSU). Meanwhile, non-physical technical assistance is intended for the preparation of "software" elements of regulation and planning.
- 2) Information Services: Information services are services to the community that provide information related to efforts to prevent slum housing and slum settlements. It involves providing news or information on various matters such as spatial planning, building and environmental arrangements, permits, and housing and settlement standards. Local governments are responsible for providing access to information to the public. They convey this information through electronic, print, or directly to the public. The language used in conveying information must be easy to understand so that it can be accessed and understood by all levels of society. The information conveyed will help the community in understanding

the regulations, standards, and plans related to the development and management of the environment in which they live. Thus, the community can actively participate in efforts to prevent and improve the quality of settlements.

After prevention efforts are achieved, it is very important to improve the quality of slum housing and slum settlements. This quality improvement is carried out through a handling pattern that includes several stages, such as the first, restoration. Restoration is a process of repairing or rebuilding housing and settlements to meet decent housing standards (Risnawati, 2022). Restoration can be in the form of repairs to houses, infrastructure, facilities, and public utilities to restore their functionality to their original state. The restoration process is carried out through several stages:

- 1) Pre Construction: This stage includes problem identification and analysis of needs for restoration, socialization to affected communities, data collection of affected residents, preparation of restoration plans, and deliberations to reach a mutual agreement.
- 2) Construction: The construction stage involves the process of appropriate compensation to the affected communities in accordance with the agreements that have been reached, the physical implementation of the restoration, and the monitoring and evaluation of the physical implementation of the restoration.
- 3) Post-construction: After the construction stage is completed, monitoring and evaluation of the use of the restoration results by the community is carried out. In addition, necessary maintenance and repairs are also carried out to ensure the continuity of the function and quality of housing and settlements that have been repaired or rebuilt.

In addition to the restoration stage, improving the quality of slum housing and slum settlements can be done through rejuvenation activities. Rejuvenation is the process of creating better conditions for houses, housing, and settlements to improve the safety and security of residents and the surrounding community (Suci, 2022). This rejuvenation process involves the complete dismantling and structuring of houses, infrastructure, facilities, and public utilities. It is important to ensure the availability of temporary housing for affected communities before starting the rejuvenation process. The stages of rejuvenation include:

- 1) Pre-Construction Stage: It includes identifying problems and analyzing rejuvenation needs, providing temporary housing for affected communities or in case of natural disasters, socialization to affected communities, collecting data on affected residents, preparing rejuvenation plans, and deliberations to reach a mutual agreement.
- 2) Construction: It includes a process of appropriate compensation for the affected community according to the agreement, the provision of temporary housing for the affected community in other locations, the physical implementation of rejuvenation at existing settlement locations, monitoring and evaluation of the physical implementation of rejuvenation, and the process of rehousing for the affected community after the rejuvenation is completed.
- 3) Post-construction: This includes the use of rejuvenation results by the community, as well as maintenance and repairs needed to maintain the quality of housing and settlements that have been renewed.

Finally, in an effort to improve the quality of slum housing and slum settlements, it can be through a resettlement activity approach. Resettlement aims to create better conditions for houses, housing, and settlements to improve safety and security for residents and the surrounding community (Wulan & Widodo, 2020). This process involves relocating or relocating people living in slum areas, which are not actually intended as residential areas, to new locations designed to create healthy and livable residential areas. The stages of resettlement include:

- 1) Pre Construction: It includes a study of space use or land legality, provision of temporary housing for affected communities or in the case of natural disasters, socialization to affected communities, data collection of affected residents, preparation of new settlement plans and plans to demolish existing settlements, as well as deliberations to reach a mutual agreement.
- 2) Construction: It includes the process of compensation for the affected communities according to the agreement, the provision of temporary housing for the affected communities in other locations if necessary, the process of land licensing at new settlement locations, the physical implementation of housing and new settlement development, monitoring and evaluation of the physical implementation of resettlement, the process of resettlement for affected communities, and the demolition process at existing settlement locations.
- 3) Post Construction: This includes the use of the results of resettlement by the community, as well as maintenance and repairs necessary to maintain the quality of housing and settlements that have been renewed.

Rejuvenation, rehabilitation, and resettlement in urban areas of Balangan district can improve the quality standards of slums, as it creates a safer, more comfortable, and sustainable environment for its residents.

Based on these findings, it was concluded that Balangan Regency has a plan to prevent and improve the quality of slums in its urban areas. Prevention efforts involve measures such as supervision, control, and community empowerment. Meanwhile, to improve the quality of settlements, a process of restoration, rejuvenation, and resettlement is carried out. The realization of this plan is expected to have a positive impact on improving the condition of slums and improving the welfare of the community in Balangan Regency.

CONCLUSION

Solving the problem of urban slums in Balangan Regency is a must to improve the quality of life of its residents. The slum prevention plan has been formulated with an approach that includes active community supervision, control, and empowerment. In addition, efforts to improve the quality of settlements are carried out through a series of measures, including restoration, rejuvenation, and resettlement programs. The handling process is carried out by the central government and local governments in accordance with their authority, by involving the active participation of the local community. Thus, the implementation of this plan is expected to have a positive impact on improving the condition of slums and improving the welfare of the people of Balangan Regency as a whole. Unfortunately, Balangan Regency's target to be free from slums in 2019 has not been achieved. Until now, there are still areas in Balangan Regency that are still categorized as slums. However, the government and the people of Balangan Regency remain committed to making Balangan Regency a district that is free from slums.

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