# EFFECTIVENESS OF THE POVERTY ALLEVIATION PROGRAM IN BATUBARA REGENCY

**DEDENG IRAWAN[A,1], MHD. SYAHNAN[B,2], ISNAINI HARAHAP[C,3]\***

[a,b,c] Universitas Islam Negeri Sumatera Utara, Medan, Sumatera Utara

[1]dedeng680@gmail.com; [2]mhdsyahnan@uinsu.ac.id; [3]isnaini.harahap@uinsu.ac.id*

\* corresponding author

**ABSTRACT**

Welfare is one aspect that is quite important to maintain and foster social and economic stability. This condition is also needed to minimize the occurrence of social jealousy in society. Inequality in people's welfare and empowerment in all regions that has occurred so far has resulted in disparities in various aspects of social and economic life of the community, including community participation in regional development which also makes them very vulnerable. The concept of poverty in general defines that poverty is the condition of a person or group of people where they do not have sufficient resources to meet the necessities of a comfortable life, both in terms of the economic, social, psychological, and spiritual dimensions. The main challenge in the short term is to increase the welfare of the poor through an approach to fulfilling basic needs, increasing and developing productive economic enterprises, as well as providing social security and protection. This research is a combination research or mixed methods. The results of this study indicate that after the BLT & RUTILAHU Program, the Health Assistance Program (KIS), the Education Assistance Program (KIP), the KUBE Assistance Program shows a difference, namely that they are more prosperous than before receiving assistance, this is also in terms of Religiosity, the condition of the beneficiaries before and after getting help, their level of religiosity is different (better) than before getting help.

**Keywords:** Kesejahteraan, Al-Mal, Al-Nafs, Al-Aql, Al-Nasl, Al-Din

## 1.    INTRODUCTION

The impact of the problem of inequality in welfare and community empowerment creates a long-lasting problem of poverty. If members are able to carry out their productivity well, their income will increase and also has the potential to improve welfare (Widiyanti, 2018). This is in accordance with Law No. 11 of 2009, CHAPTER 1 Article Paragraph 2 which states that the Implementation of Social Welfare is a directed, integrated and sustainable effort carried out by the Government, regional governments and the community in the form of social services to meet the basic needs of every citizen. , which includes social rehabilitation, social security, social empowerment and social protection. In this regard, to find out the extent to which a poverty alleviation program based on community empowerment has been implemented, the government should evaluate models of poverty alleviation programs based on community empowerment and the implementation of institutional strengthening (Nurlina, 2017). The number of poor people in Batu Bara Regency in 2015 was 50.37 thousand people or 12.61 percent. This figure decreased in 2016 to 49.42 thousand people or 12.24 percent. In general, poverty in Batu Bara Regency shows ups and downs or fluctuating movements from 2012 to 2016.

The number of poor families in Batu Bara Regency in 2020 was 128,800 heads of families. The most poor families come from Tanjung Tiram District, then Datuk Limapuluh District. The number of poor people in Batu Bara has changed from 2015 to 2020 (BPS Batubara Regency, 2021). One of the national development targets is to reduce the poverty rate in Batubara Regency. Reducing the poverty rate is one of the targets of all poverty reduction programs. This research will outline the poverty reduction efforts currently being implemented by the Batubara Regency Government to achieve the poverty rate target of 8-10 percent. in 2022. Initially, it describes the development of poverty indicators up to the latest conditions in 2010. Then it continues with a description of the characteristics of poor households. The next section outlines the targets of the Batubara District Government and the MDGs in poverty reduction.

The study carried out resulted in recommendations to the Ministry of Social Affairs and local governments in the form of material for improving policies in determining targets and programs for handling poverty, this is in accordance with Law No. 11 of 2009 CHAPTER 1 Article 1 which states that Social Welfare is a condition where material, spiritual and spiritual needs are met. social citizens so that they can live a decent life and be able to develop themselves, so that they can carry out their social functions. Poverty makes Batubara Regency look for various definite solutions to reduce the poverty rate in Batubara Regency to lead to a better life in meeting its needs. Eradicating poverty globally and assessing the feasibility of this goal for Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), the world's poorest but rapidly increasing region. It was found that under reasonable assumptions, extreme poverty will not be eradicated in SSA by 2030, but can be reduced to low levels (Zorobabel et al, 2015).

Handling and empowering the poor is the responsibility of the central government and regional governments, in this case the Social Service as an implementing element of regional autonomy as well as a regional apparatus is responsible for handling the poor as stated in Article 1 paragraph (5) of Law no. 13 of 2011, namely improving the implementation of social empowerment as a method of overcoming poverty, increasing the implementation of social protection, social security and social rehabilitation in the form of social assistance, and/or social assistance to ensure the basic fulfillment and restoration of social functions of PMKS, maintaining and preserving heroic values and The spirit of struggle, the model of shared rights and responsibilities enshrined in Islam has tremendous potential for individual and social reform in the world. Islam has provided all the rights necessary for excessive human growth and prosperity (Bilal, 2019).

The obligation of the Batubara Regency government in alleviating poverty is to provide health service facilities and public facilities, according to Alfatianda & Djuwendah (2006), changes in the quality of society in various social activities such as mutual cooperation in maintaining cleanliness, maintaining security, building public facilities, community social activities. The government's benchmark for success has been achieved in terms of fulfilling the rights of the poor or needy from Article 3 of Law no. 13 of 2011 concerning Handling the Poor, as mentioned, obtain adequate food, clothing, shelter, housing, health services, obtain education, obtain social protection and social services, obtain a decent standard of living and a healthy environment, improve welfare conditions, obtain employment and opportunities. try.

The main challenge in the short term is to improve the welfare of the poor population through an approach to fulfilling basic needs, increasing and developing productive economic businesses, as well as providing social security and protection. It is necessary to overcome poverty in a comprehensive and integrated manner so that social, economic and cultural conditions can improve, as well as increase the welfare of the poor (Law Number 25 of 2000 concerning Propenas).

To see the effectiveness of the poverty alleviation program in Batubara Regency, researchers will see when the participants in the poverty alleviation program have become prosperous families due to the positive impact arising from the program being carried out, they should automatically be able to leave or resign from participating in the program so that the aim of The poverty alleviation program can be implemented, namely reducing the poverty rate. This is based on the phenomenon in the community who are always reluctant to leave poverty reduction programs because they feel that they are always entitled, so this has a negative impact on implementation, even though in reality they are worthy of being released. The object of poverty alleviation that the researcher took will focus on the Family Hope Program (PKH), this program the researcher took because it is considered to represent all poverty alleviation programs in Indonesia, in this program, almost all poverty alleviation programs have been covered.

Based on this data, it shows that seriousness is needed in alleviating poverty in Batubara Regency so that it can reduce the poverty rate in Batubara Regency which still requires more attention from all elements related both directly and indirectly to the poverty alleviation program.

## 2.    LITERATURE REVIEW

Research conducted by Yeni Nurmawati and Thomas Soseco in 2017 "The Effectiveness of Jalin Matra Poverty Vulnerability Reduction Program in Village of Ngroto", the results of the research stated that

the implementation of Jalin Matra PK2 from the income aspect was less effective. This is because the increase in income only occurred in a relatively small number of target households. The implementation of Jalin Matra PK2 from the production aspect was effective. This is because the additional capital received by the target household is used to boost their business turnover. Of the 477 families in Ngroto Village registered in the vulnerable to poor category, only 49 households were able to obtain loans (10.27%). This means that the implementation of Jalin Matra PK2 from a capital aspect has not been effective.

Tackling Poverty through Women Empowerment: The Role of Social Capital in Indonesian Women's Cooperative. This research was conducted in 2018 by Widiyanti et al. The results of the research stated that the dimensions of network, trust and social capital norms had a positive and significant effect on women's empowerment. High network social capital will make it easier for cooperative members to obtain information and carry out mutually beneficial cooperation, so that women have the ability to utilize the resources they have. The existence of trust social capital will make it easier for women to obtain loans to start or continue/expand their businesses, thereby creating women's independence. Likewise, with high norm social capital, activities will be carried out more efficiently because they do not conflict with other applicable norms. The dimensions of network, trust and social capital norms have a negative and significant effect on poverty. Trusted social capital will increase and expand partnerships among members or with outside parties, so that business opportunities and marketing opportunities are opened, and income will increase. Women's productivity will also increase when trusting social capital is high due to strong emotional attachment which creates a sense of security, institutional stability, and more effective cooperation. High norm social capital will make it easier for cooperative members to obtain loans so that it does not interfere with their productivity. If members are able to carry out their productivity well, their income will increase and also has the potential to improve welfare. Women's empowerment has a negative and significant effect on poverty. Cooperative members have the power to contribute to the economy, have independence in making decisions, and also have self-confidence, thereby increasing their capacity to fight poverty. The Multi-Enterprise Women's Cooperative "Setia Budi Wanita" East Java has provided access for women to save and obtain credit so that they can increase their productivity and have the potential to improve the welfare of women and their families. The social capital dimension of trust has a dominant influence on women's empowerment and poverty compared to network and norm social capital. Open social networks and enforcing norms as a control to organize members will not be able to empower women and alleviate poverty without high levels of trust. The trust built in women's cooperatives makes it easier for women to get loans without collateral. Because of trust, cooperatives obtain financial capital to run their business through member savings.

Inequality in the Access to Social Housing in Cameroon: A Decomposition of the Poverty Effect. This research was conducted in 2008 by Minfede Koe Raoul, the results of his research stated that there were differences in access to social housing between the poor and the non-poor. In other to do this we use tools from the inequality decomposition proposed by Fairlie (2005). The data used comes from a poor housing survey conducted in Cameroon by the National Institute of Statistics in 20017. Our objectives were achieved in two stages. The first stage consists in evaluating individual variables that influence the possibility of access to social housing. We use a probabilistic Probit model. Economic variables such as education level, sector of activity and income were found to be significant. Poor households are less likely to have access to social housing. In addition, the results revealed a significant impact on age and gender. Young households and those managed by women are less likely to have access to social housing. The second stage enabled us to disentangle the contribution of individual variables to differences in access to social housing. These results reveal that public programs providing social housing funds suffer from the wrong target population. This shows that the available supply is not tailored to the socio-economic conditions of the most vulnerable. These results invite public decision makers to increase the available volume of Social Housing. This orientation will release the tension of demand. The transparency of social housing attribution procedures must be guaranteed. Credible information about residents' future income levels and living standards should be collected and used as a social housing attribution tool. This study makes it possible to envisage an

analysis of the efficiency of different circumstances of social housing provision programs. This is the aim of the study we are currently carrying out.

Ariza Fuadi, Towards the Discourse of Islamic Philanthropy for Social Justice in Indonesia. The rapid development of Islamic philanthropic activism in Indonesia has attracted much attention among academics, practitioners and policy makers. It appears that efforts to promote Islamic philanthropic activism as a means to foster social justice have been undertaken by civil society organizations and state institutions. This can be seen, among other things, from the motives and objectives of Islamic philanthropic associations, as well as the regulations issued by the state regarding the practice of Islamic philanthropy from the era of independence until now. This shows that the culture of philanthropy in Muslim societies is no longer organized in a traditional way, or only to relieve the poor. On the contrary, it is hoped that through a culture of giving, poverty can be eradicated, and Islamic associations can provide long-term development projects. However, in reality, efforts to realize social justice are hampered by several factors, including social, economic and political factors, so that continuous and systematic efforts from state actors and civil society are still needed to advance social justice. Key words: philanthropy, Islam, social justice.

Bilal Ahmad Bhat Ph.D, Social Justice in Islam and Human Rights. Research Scholar, School of Education and Behavioral Sciences, University of Kashmir, Kashmir. Vol.27. No (01) ISSN: 0975-6558 88. Islamic law divinely mandates the rights of individuals in their special roles as spouses, parents, children, siblings, neighbors, friends and even enemies. In its distribution of rights and responsibilities, Islam has addressed the social, racial, gender, and sectarian issues that plague our global society. Indeed, the model of shared rights and responsibilities enshrined in Islam has tremendous potential for individual and social reform in the world. Islam has provided all the rights necessary for excessive human growth and prosperity. It is a religion of peace, tranquility, world brotherhood, mutual assistance, and cooperation. It has given social, political, economic, cultural and civil rights to all humans without considering color, caste, family and birth etc. Islam gave humanity a code of ideal human rights fourteen centuries ago. These rights aim to provide honor and dignity to humanity and eliminate exploitation, oppression and injustice. To say this is not wrong that Islam is resistance to barbarism, injustice, and oppression. It always helps all the helpless and weak people. If it supports humans when they are oppressed by intolerant tyrants and their troops, then Islam will prevent that oppression and this is not terrorism, but its support for humanity.

Sabri Ciftci, 2019. Egalitarian preferences and virtues are important elements of Islamic social justice, which is one of the main pillars of the Islamic ethical-political system. Surprisingly, empirical investigations into the attitudinal implications of Islamic social justice values are rare. This is one of the first studies to examine the correlation between Islam, social justice values, and regime preferences. It proposes that benevolence and egalitarian distributive preferences will promote democratic support and mediate the effect of religiosity on democratic orientation. Seemingly unrelated regression estimates using a Muslim-only sample from the sixth wave of the World Values Survey support this hypothesis. The effect of social justice values is exclusively to support democracy and not to support authoritarian systems. Furthermore, religiosity increases support for democracy through the mediating mechanism of social justice values. These results imply that, in addition to the principles of ijtihad, ijma, and shura, Islamic social justice values can encourage pluralistic ideas in Muslim-majority societies.

## 3. RESEARCH METHOD

The method used in this research is mixed methods. This research is a research step that combines two previously existing forms of research, namely qualitative research and quantitative research. According to Creswell, mixed research is a research approach that combines qualitative research with quantitative research (Creswell, 2010). According to Sugiyono's opinion, mixed research methods are a research method between qualitative methods and quantitative methods to be used together in a research activity, so that more comprehensive, valid, reliable and objective data is obtained (Sugiyono, 2016).

In this research, a sequential mixed methods strategy is used, especially a sequential explanatory strategy. In this research, in the first stage, collecting and analyzing quantitative data in answering the problem formulation, namely the effectiveness of the BLT & RUTILAHU program on welfare, the effectiveness of the Health Assistance program (KIS) on welfare, the effectiveness of the Education Assistance program (KIP) on welfare, the effectiveness of the KUBE assistance program on Welfare and Religiosity are effective on the welfare of the people of Batubara Regency by distributing questionnaires to recipients of poverty alleviation assistance in Batubara Regency through different tests, then the second stage is analyzed qualitatively using in-depth interviews. In this research, more emphasis is placed on qualitative methods. Combining quantitative data with qualitative data is usually based on the results previously obtained from the first stage. The main priority at this stage is more emphasized in the second stage, and the process of combining the two occurs when the researcher connects quantitative data collection with qualitative data analysis.

The use of these two methods is considered to provide a more complete understanding of the research problem than the use of one of them. Mixed methods research is a research approach that combines or associates qualitative and quantitative forms (Sugiyono, 2012). This approach involves philosophical assumptions, the application of qualitative and quantitative approaches, as well as mixing the two approaches in one research.

This approach is more complex than simply collecting and analyzing two types of data but also involves the functions of the two research approaches collectively so that the overall strength of this research is greater than that of research. The research specification used is descriptive analysis which aims to create a description or picture of the facts, characteristics and influences between the phenomena being investigated.

In presenting the data in this research, the researcher used the theory put forward by Miles and Huberman (1992: 16), which is most often used in qualitative research, namely narrative text. Furthermore, it is recommended that in displaying data, apart from narrative text, it can also be in the form of graphs, matrices, networks and charts. According to Miles & Huberman (1992: 16) analysis consists of a flow of activities that occur simultaneously.

## 4.     RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This research is to see whether Economy (Al-Mal), Health (An-Nafs), Education (Al-Agl), Sustainability (NASL), and Religiosity (Al Wala) have a positive and significant effect on the Welfare of Aid Recipients in Batubara Regency. To test this hypothesis, a t test was carried out using the Paired Sample T Test. Paired Sample T Test is a test used to compare the difference between two means from two paired samples with the assumption that the data is normally distributed. Paired samples come from the same subject, each variable is taken in different situations and circumstances. This test is also called the paired T test.

Paired Sample T Test shows whether paired samples experience significant changes. The Paired Sample T Test test results are determined by the significance value. This value then determines the decisions taken in the research. A significance value (2-tailed) < 0.05 indicates that there is a significant difference between the initial variable and the final variable. This shows that there is a significant influence on the differences in treatment given to each variable. A significance value (2-tailed) >0.05 indicates that there is no significant difference between the initial variable and the final variable. This shows that there is no significant influence on the differences in treatment given to each variable. The following are the results of the Paired Sample T Test in this research on each variable:

Table 1. Paired Sample T Test

Paired Samples Statistics

|   |   | Mean | N | Std. Deviation | Std. Error Mean |
|---|---|------|---|----------------|-----------------|
| $X_1$ | Before | 34.20 | 240 | 3.705 | .239 |
|   | After | 57.13 | 240 | 3.928 | .254 |
| $X_2$ | Before | 35.08 | 240 | 3.185 | .206 |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | After | 58.13 | 240 | 3.557 | .230 |
| X₃ | Before | 33.46 | 240 | 3.609 | .233 |
| | After | 56.81 | 240 | 3.452 | .223 |
| X₄ | Before | 29.24 | 240 | 2.803 | .181 |
| | After | 55.44 | 240 | 3.770 | .243 |
| X₅ | Before | 40.21 | 240 | 4.000 | .258 |
| | After | 57.42 | 240 | 3.472 | .224 |

The Paired Samples Statistics table shows the descriptive value of each variable in paired samples. The initial results before receiving assistance had an average value (mean) of 34.20 from 240 respondents. The data distribution (Std. Deviation) obtained was 3.705 with a standard error of 0.239. The final result after receiving assistance had an average value (mean) of 57.13 from 240 respondents. The data distribution (Std.Deviation) obtained was 3.928 with a standard error of 0.254. This shows that the final results after receiving assistance are better in terms of welfare than the initial results. The initial results before receiving assistance had an average value (mean) of 35.08 from 240 respondents. The data distribution (Std. Deviation) obtained was 3.185 with a standard error of 0.206. The final result after receiving assistance had an average value (mean) of 58.13 from 240 respondents. The data distribution (Std.Deviation) obtained was 3.557 with a standard error of 0.230. This shows that the final results after receiving assistance are better in terms of welfare than the initial results. The initial results before receiving assistance had an average value (mean) of 33.46 from 240 respondents. The data distribution (Std. Deviation) obtained was 3.609 with a standard error of 0.233. The final result after receiving assistance had an average value (mean) of 56.81 from 240 respondents. The data distribution (Std.Deviation) obtained was 3.452 with a standard error of 0.230. This shows that the final results after receiving assistance are better in terms of welfare than the initial results. The initial results before receiving assistance had an average value (mean) of 29.24 from 240 respondents. The data distribution (Std. Deviation) obtained was 2.803 with a standard error of 0.181. The final result after receiving assistance had an average value (mean) of 55.44 from 240 respondents. The data distribution (Std.Deviation) obtained was 3.770 with a standard error of 0.243. This shows that the final results after receiving assistance are better in terms of welfare than the initial results. Initial results before receiving assistance had an average value (mean) of 40.21 from 240 respondents. The data distribution (Std. Deviation) obtained is 4,000 with a standard error of 0.258. The final result after receiving assistance had an average value (mean) of 57.42 from 240 respondents. The data distribution (Std.Deviation) obtained was 3.472 with a standard error of 0.224. This shows that the final results after receiving assistance are not better in terms of welfare than the initial results.

In order to be able to make all poverty reduction programs in Indonesia a success, according to researchers, following the poverty reduction assessment model based on maqashid sharia indicators which are compared with the four characteristics of Rasululloh in selecting recipients of poverty reduction program assistance, it is indeed difficult, but if all state officials willing to implement it without any discrimination towards aid recipients, researchers believe that the poverty alleviation program in Indonesia can really reduce or even eliminate poverty in Indonesia, as was done by Umar bin Abdul Aziz who was successful in alleviating poverty.

## 5.    CONCLUSION

The paradigms in this research use various paradigms but focus more on paradigm triangulation. Quantitative data uses a positivism paradigm while qualitative data uses an interpretive (phenomenological) paradigm. Data that is declared valid through triangulation will give researchers confidence about the validity of the data, so that they will not hesitate in drawing conclusions about the research conducted. The presence of the Poverty Alleviation Program in Batubara Regency has provided an opportunity for the community to be able to help them fulfill their family's needs so that they can be helped. This research also shows that the number of aid programs provided is a consideration for determining the priority scale for creating an effective aid program for the

community so that the aid program This can be a solution to help people overcome the difficulties they face.

**REFERENCES**

[1]  Abu Abd al-Rahman Ahmad bin Syu"aib al-Nasa"i, Sunan al-Nasa"i Bisyarhi al-Suyuthi Kwa Hasyiyah al-Sanadi, juz 8 (Beirut : Dar al-ma"rifah, 1420H), 654.

[2]  Alfatianda, C., & Djuwendah, E. (2017). Dampak Ekowisata Dan Agrowisata (Eko-Agrowisata) Terhadap Sosial Ekonomi Masyarakat di Desa Wisata Cibuntu. Jurnal Ilmiah Mahasiswa AGROINFO GALUH, 4,435-436.

[3]  Al-Quran Terjemahan. 2015. Departemen Agama RI. Bandung: CV Darus Sunnah.

[4]  Ariza, Fuadi.2015. Negara Kesejahteraan (Welfare State) Dalam Pandangan.Islam dan Kapitalisme,.Jurnal Ekonomi Syariah. Vol. V No.1.

[5]  Bilal, M, 2019, Impact of participative leadership on organizational citizenship behavior: Mediating role of trust and moderating role of continuance commitment: Evidence from the Pakistan hotel industry. Sustainability.

[6]  BPS. 2021. Kabupaten Batubara Dalam Angka 2020. Kabupaten Batubara: BPS Kabupaten Batubara.

[7]  Creswell, J. W. (2010). Research design: pendekatan kualitatif, kuantitatif, dan mixed. Yogjakarta: PT Pustaka Pelajar.

[8]  Deri dan Amri. 2018. Jurnal Ekonomi dan Manajmene STIE Pertiba Pangkalpinang. *Effect Of Organizational Images, Price Determination, Service Quality on Student Satisfaction and Its Impact on Student Loyality*. Vol. 1, No.2, Edisi Desember 2018.

[9]  Esbroeck, Raoul V. (2008). Career guidance in a global world. Handbook of Career Guidance. 23-44. Springer Science.

[10] Jorgensen, JH., Pfaller MA., Carroll KC. 2015. Manual of Clinical Microbiology 1th edition Volume 1. Washington DC: ASM Press.

[11] KEMENSOS Rutilahu dan Sarling Rehabilitasi sosial, *Peraturan Menteri Sosial Republik Indonesia Nomor 20 tahun 2017 Tentang Rehabilitasi Sosial Rumah Tidak Layak Huni dan Sarana Prasarana Lingkungan*.

[12] Menteri Pekerjaan Umum dan Perumahan Rakyat Republik Indonesia, *Peraturan Menteri Pekerjaan Umum Dan Perumahan Rakyat Republik Indonesia Nomor 13/Prt/M/2016 Tentang Bantuan Stimulan Perumahan Swadaya*, (Jakarta: JDIH Kementerian PUPR, 2016).

[13] Nurlina (2017). The Analysis of The Effects of Capital Expenditure and Human Development Index on Economic Growth and Poverty in East Aceh Regency. *International Journal of Economic Research*. 14(17). 415-428

[14] Peraturan Pemerintah No. 25 Tahun 2000. Tentang Perimbangan keuangan Pusat dan Daerah.

[15] Sabri Ciftci, Islam, Social Justice, and Democracy, Politics and Religion , Volume 12 , Issue 4 , December 2019 , pp. 549 – 576.

[16] Sugiyono. (2016). Metode Penelitian Kuantitatif, Kualitatif dan R&D. Bandung: PT Alfabet.

[17] Undang-Undang Nomor 11 Tahun 2009 Tentang Kesejahteraan Sosial.

[18] Undang-Undang Nomor 13 Tahun 2003 Tentang Ketenagakerjaan.

[19] Widiyanti, W. (2018). Penilaian Kinerja Keuangan Pemerintah Daerah Kota Bogor Periode Tahun 2012 - 2016, 2(2), 2-9.

[20] Yeni Nurmawati, Thomas Soseco. 2017. The Effectiveness Of Jalin Matra Penanggulanggan Kerentanan Kemiskinan Programme in Village of Ngroto. ISSN(P) 2086-1575 E-ISSN 20502-7115, JESP-Vol.9., No 2.

[21] Zorobabel dkk (2015), dalam penelitiannya "Eliminating Extreme Poverty in Africa: Trends, Policies and the Role of International Organizations".