

Mapping the Socioeconomic Resilience of Vulnerable Groups in Makassar City

Henni Zainal¹, Fitriani²

Faculty of Social Sciences and Law, Universitas Negeri Makassar^{1,2}

Email: Hennizainal@unm.ac.id¹, fitrianamzb@unm.ac.id²

ABSTRACT

The economic crisis is a complex phenomenon that has the potential to shake the social and economic stability of society, especially vulnerable groups. This study aims to analyze the level of socioeconomic resilience of vulnerable communities in Makassar City in facing the impact of the economic crisis. The research method used is a qualitative approach with data collection techniques through observation, interviews, and documentation. The data analysis technique used is the theory of Miles and Huberman. The results show that the level of socioeconomic resilience of vulnerable communities in Makassar City varies, influenced by factors such as income level, education, access to public services, and the strength of social networks. The economic crisis tends to worsen the socioeconomic conditions of vulnerable groups. However, several adaptation strategies such as livelihood diversification through strengthening the MSME sector, improving the quality of education and health, saving expenses, and social support have been proven to help increase their resilience. These findings provide important implications for the government in formulating more responsive and sustainable public policies to strengthen the socioeconomic resilience of vulnerable communities in facing future economic crises.

Keywords: Resilience Mapping, Socioeconomics, Vulnerable Groups, Makassar City

INTRODUCTION

The socioeconomic resilience of vulnerable communities has become an increasingly crucial issue in the face of economic crises, particularly in urban areas like Makassar. As an economic hub in Eastern Indonesia, Makassar has complex social and economic dynamics, including high economic inequality. In crisis situations, such as a pandemic and fluctuating commodity prices, vulnerable groups such as informal workers, daily laborers, and low-income households often experience greater impacts than others. Job loss, reduced income, and rising living costs are key challenges faced by these groups. Therefore, it is crucial to understand how vulnerable communities adapt and survive in the face of economic crises and identify the factors that influence their socioeconomic resilience. The urgency of this research lies in the need to better understand the survival strategies of vulnerable communities in Makassar and how social and economic policies

can contribute to increasing their resilience. Several factors support the importance of this study. First, vulnerable communities often face recurring crises, both global and national, requiring further analysis of their adaptation strategies. Second, social and economic inequality in Makassar limits access to formal employment and social services for certain groups. Third, empirical studies on the socioeconomic resilience of vulnerable communities in this city are still limited, thus this research can fill a gap in the literature and provide insights for policymakers.

The concept of socioeconomic resilience refers to the ability of individuals or groups to cope with and adapt to economic pressures. Adger (2000) defines resilience as the capacity of a social system to cope with external disturbances through adaptation and transformation, while Chambers and Conway (1992) emphasize the importance of survival strategies, access to economic resources, and social support in determining the resilience of vulnerable communities. Several previous studies have shown that social capital and income diversification are key factors in increasing resilience to economic crises (Carter et al., 2007; Dercon, 2004). A study in Indonesia by Yusuf and Resosudarmo (2017) also showed that communities with limited access to productive assets are more vulnerable to the impacts of the crisis. Research by Jabbar (2020) also highlighted the impact of the economic crisis on the increasing number of street children in Makassar City. Factors such as poverty and unemployment force children to work on the streets to support their families. This situation not only affects economic well-being but also negatively impacts the social and educational development of these children. Furthermore, a study by Achmad (2018) showed that the economic crisis worsened the social conditions of homeless people in Makassar City. Persistent poverty, limited employment opportunities, and urbanization are the main factors contributing to the increase in homelessness. The economic crisis further exacerbated this situation by increasing economic pressures on individuals and families, increasing their vulnerability to homelessness.

Furthermore, a study by Imran (2021) discusses post-pandemic economic recovery strategies through the MSME sector. This research emphasizes that these sectors play a vital role in economic recovery, especially for vulnerable communities who rely heavily on the informal sector. Implementing policies that support MSME development is expected to increase the economic resilience of communities in Makassar City. Therefore, by understanding the dynamics of socioeconomic resilience among vulnerable communities in Makassar, this research can provide recommendations for formulating more inclusive and sustainable policies. To address this issue, this research will use a qualitative approach through a survey to collect data on income, employment, and survival strategies of vulnerable communities. Documentary studies will also be conducted to analyze government policies related to social assistance and economic resilience. Through this method, this research is expected to provide a comprehensive picture of the socioeconomic resilience of vulnerable communities in Makassar.

This study aims to analyze the factors influencing the socioeconomic resilience of vulnerable communities in Makassar in the face of the economic crisis. Furthermore, it aims to identify the survival strategies employed by vulnerable communities, evaluate the effectiveness of social assistance programs in increasing their resilience, and provide policy recommendations that can help strengthen their socioeconomic resilience. Based on the background and literature review, this study proposes several main hypotheses. First, vulnerable communities with strong social capital have greater levels of economic resilience in the face of crises. Second, diversification of income sources contributes to increasing the economic resilience of vulnerable communities. Third, effective social assistance programs are positively correlated with the socioeconomic resilience of vulnerable communities. Fourth, access to financial services and business capital increases their resilience to economic crises.

This research is expected to identify more effective strategies for improving the socioeconomic resilience of vulnerable communities in Makassar. It also aims to provide academic and practical contributions to local governments and social organizations in designing policies that are more responsive to the needs of vulnerable communities. Therefore, the results of this study can serve as a foundation for more informed decision-making in facing future economic challenges.

METHOD

This study uses a qualitative method with a descriptive approach to analyze the socioeconomic resilience of vulnerable communities in Makassar City. The data used in this study are sourced from literature studies, including scientific journals, books, research reports, and publications from government agencies and related organizations. Data analysis techniques were conducted qualitatively by collecting, grouping, and comparing various findings from relevant literature. The data analysis technique also utilized the theory of Miles and Huberman.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1. Profile of Vulnerable Communities in Makassar

According to data from the Central Statistics Agency (BPS), poverty in South Sulawesi has shown a decline, while poverty in Makassar has actually increased. Specifically, between 2021 and 2023, the percentage of poor people in South Sulawesi fell from 8.78 percent to 8.70 percent. Meanwhile, between 2013 and 2024, the percentage of poor people in Makassar City rose from 4.70 percent to 4.97 percent. In fact, in 2023, it reached 5.07 percent. The vulnerable communities referred to in this study consist of poor families, informal sector workers, and individuals with low levels of education. Most of them live in areas with limited access to social and economic services, such as Bontoala, Tamalate, and Manggala. This group faces significant challenges in

survival, especially amid the ongoing economic crisis (Rachmawati, 2022), (Wibisono, 2020), and (Santoso, 2019).

This limited access makes it even more difficult for them to escape their vulnerable conditions. They often lack sufficient information about existing social assistance programs, or even the ability to access them. The ongoing economic crisis has further exacerbated the conditions of vulnerable communities in Makassar.

2. The Impact of the Economic Crisis on Socioeconomic Resilience

The economic crisis, caused by both external and internal factors, has had a significant impact on the social and economic lives of vulnerable communities. A sharp decline in family income has occurred, particularly for informal sector workers who have lost their jobs or experienced reduced working hours. This impact is exacerbated by inflation and rising prices of basic necessities, further straining people's purchasing power. This decline in income has also impacted people's ability to meet basic needs, such as food, healthcare, and education. Most families have been forced to reduce spending and seek alternative means of survival. Some have even been forced to drop out of school or marry young for economic reasons.

3. Socioeconomic Resilience Strategy

Facing the severe impact of the economic crisis, vulnerable communities in Makassar have developed various strategies to maintain their socioeconomic resilience. Based on research findings, the main strategies implemented are:

1. **Diversification of Income Sources:** Many families who previously relied on one source of income, began looking for side jobs, such as becoming online motorcycle taxi drivers, small traders, and working part-time.
2. **Utilization of Social Networks:** People often rely on social assistance from extended family, friends, or local organizations in the form of food aid, cash loans, and labor.
3. **Skills Enhancement:** Some community groups seek skills training to improve their abilities and open up better job opportunities.
4. **Efficient Financial Management:** Many households are starting to implement stricter budget management strategies, such as reducing spending on non-essential needs and delaying purchases.

4. The Role of Government and Social Institutions

The Makassar City Government has implemented several social assistance programs, such as direct cash assistance (BLT), affordable food distribution, and free education programs. However, the distribution of this assistance is often delayed and uneven, reducing its effectiveness in improving the resilience of vulnerable communities.

Social institutions and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) also play a crucial role in providing skills training, affordable healthcare, and assistance in the form of essential goods. Collaboration between the government, social institutions, and communities shows significant potential for supporting the resilience of vulnerable communities. However, challenges in distribution and coordination between various parties remain issues that need to be addressed.

5. Economic Growth of Makassar City

The economy of Makassar City based on the Gross Regional Domestic Product (GRDP) at current prices in the third quarter of 2024 reached IDR 62.17 trillion and at constant 2010 prices reached IDR 37.80 trillion. Makassar City's economy grew 5.26 percent year-on-year in the third quarter of 2024 compared to the third quarter of 2023. In terms of production, the primary sector saw the highest growth at 7.49 percent. In terms of expenditure, the Household Final Consumption Expenditure (PK-RT) component experienced the highest growth at 6.74 percent. Makassar City's economy grew 2.20 percent quarter-on-quarter in the third quarter of 2024 compared to the previous quarter. In terms of production, the secondary sector saw the highest growth at 4.56 percent. Meanwhile, in terms of expenditure, the Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF) component experienced the highest growth at 10.17 percent. The cumulative economic growth of Makassar City through the third quarter of 2024 compared to 2023 was 5.80 percent (c-to-c). In terms of production, the largest growth occurred in the tertiary sector, at 7.42 percent. Meanwhile, in terms of expenditure, the highest growth occurred in the Government Final Consumption (PK-P) component, at 8.82 percent. Overall, Makassar's economy is showing a positive growth trend, reflecting a steady and sustained increase in economic activity. On the expenditure side, household consumption and government spending are the main factors driving growth, demonstrating continued strong public purchasing power and the government's increasing role in supporting economic activity through various programs.

This study reveals that the socioeconomic resilience of vulnerable communities in Makassar City is significantly influenced by various factors, including income levels, access to education and healthcare, and social support. In the context of the economic crisis, vulnerable communities, particularly informal workers, daily laborers, and low-income households, experienced greater impacts than other groups. The crisis led to decreased income, increased living costs, and limited access to economic resources. However, this research also shows that vulnerable communities are not entirely passive in facing these challenges. They adopt various adaptation strategies, such as diversifying

livelihoods through the development of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), saving on expenses, and utilizing social networks for economic and emotional support. Another factor contributing to their resilience is government social assistance, although its effectiveness varies depending on accessibility and the distribution mechanisms employed.

This study highlights that the socioeconomic resilience of vulnerable communities in Makassar can be improved through more inclusive policy interventions. Skills-building programs and job training, broader access to financial services and business capital, and social policies oriented toward strengthening the local economy can help communities better cope with the impacts of the economic crisis. Therefore, this research provides important insights for the government in designing more responsive and sustainable policies to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable communities in the future.

CONCLUSION

This study concludes that the socioeconomic resilience of vulnerable communities in Makassar City is significantly influenced by income, access to education and healthcare, and social support. The economic crisis has had a significant impact on vulnerable groups, particularly informal workers, daily laborers, and low-income households, who experienced decreased income and increased living costs. However, vulnerable communities did not passively face the crisis but implemented various adaptation strategies, such as diversifying income sources, saving on expenses, and leveraging social networks to survive. Furthermore, government policy interventions through social assistance such as direct cash assistance (BLT), affordable food provision, and free education programs have also helped, although their effectiveness still depends on distribution and accessibility. This study emphasizes the importance of more inclusive policies oriented towards strengthening the local economy, such as improving job skills, access to financial services and business capital, and more effective social programs. With a more structured approach, the socioeconomic resilience of vulnerable communities in Makassar City can be enhanced in facing future economic challenges.

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