

## DETERMINATION OF SLUM AREA STATUS IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PLANNING OF TANJUNGBALAI CITY

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### Abstract

Determination of slum status is an important initial step in sustainable development planning in Tanjungbalai City. This study aims to evaluate the existing conditions of slum areas in the city and analyze the role of slum status determination in supporting sustainable urban development planning. Based on the data collected, slum status determination allows for more targeted planning in infrastructure improvement, fulfillment of basic needs, and community empowerment. However, there are a number of obstacles in this process, including limited accurate data, less than optimal inter-sectoral coordination, and community resistance to change. Therefore, a comprehensive strategy is needed, including strengthening data systems, cross-sectoral coordination, increasing community participation, supportive policies, and sustainable funding to strengthen the slum status determination process and realize sustainable urban development. This study provides recommendations for the Tanjungbalai City government to continue to strengthen collaboration between the government, community, and private sector in order to achieve inclusive and sustainable development goals.

**Keywords:** *Determination of Slum Area Status, Sustainable Development Planning, Tanjungbalai City Development, Sustainable Infrastructure and Community Participation*

### INTRODUCTION

Tanjungbalai, as one of the developing cities in North Sumatra Province, faces significant challenges in terms of urbanization and urban area management. Along with rapid population growth and economic development, the problem of slum areas is increasingly becoming a pressing issue in urban development planning. Slum areas, which are characterized by poor physical conditions, limited public facilities, and unhealthy environments, are a major obstacle to achieving sustainable development goals. Determining the status of slum areas in the context of sustainable urban development planning is very important, because slum areas have the potential to affect the quality of life of the residents living in them, as well as contributing to various social, economic, and environmental problems. (Sri Rejeki et al., 2024). In Tanjungbalai, despite efforts to improve infrastructure and basic services, the problem of slum areas remains a major challenge. Therefore, determining the status of slum areas needs to be done carefully, based on clear criteria, and involving various stakeholders, to formulate appropriate policies and strategies to improve the quality of the environment and community life. For the national program in preventing and improving the quality of slum areas, the Tanjungbalai City Government through the Housing and Settlement Service is currently preparing and implementing activities related to the national program. The series of activities are:

1. Issuance of Regional Regulations;
2. Determination of slum area status;
3. RP2KPKPK (Urban Slum Prevention and Quality Improvement Plan);
4. DED (Detail Engineering Design) RP2KPKPK;
5. Slum improvement project activities.

In 2021, there was a Decree of the Mayor of Tanjungbalai Number: 600/216/K/2021 concerning the Determination of the Location of Slum Housing and Slum Settlements in Tanjungbalai City. Then it was changed in 2022 through the Decree of the Mayor of Tanjungbalai Number: 650/262/K/2022 concerning Amendments to the Decree of the Mayor of Tanjungbalai Number: 600/216/K/2021 concerning the Determination of the Location of

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Slum Housing and Slum Settlements in Tanjungbalai City. Based on Law Number 1 of 2011 concerning Housing and Residential Areas in Article 18, the district/city government in carrying out guidance has the authority: To prepare and improve laws and regulations in the field of housing and residential areas at the district/city level together with the DPRD then Determine the location of housing and settlements as slum housing and slum settlements at the district/city level and then Facilitate improving the quality of slum housing and slum settlements at the district/city level. In accordance with the Law, currently in the 2025 Budget Year, the Tanjungbalai City Government is preparing a Regional Regulation related to the national program in preventing and improving the quality of slum areas. Where the Regional Regulation is one of the basic/foundations for the criteria for determining the status of slum areas in Tanjungbalai City.

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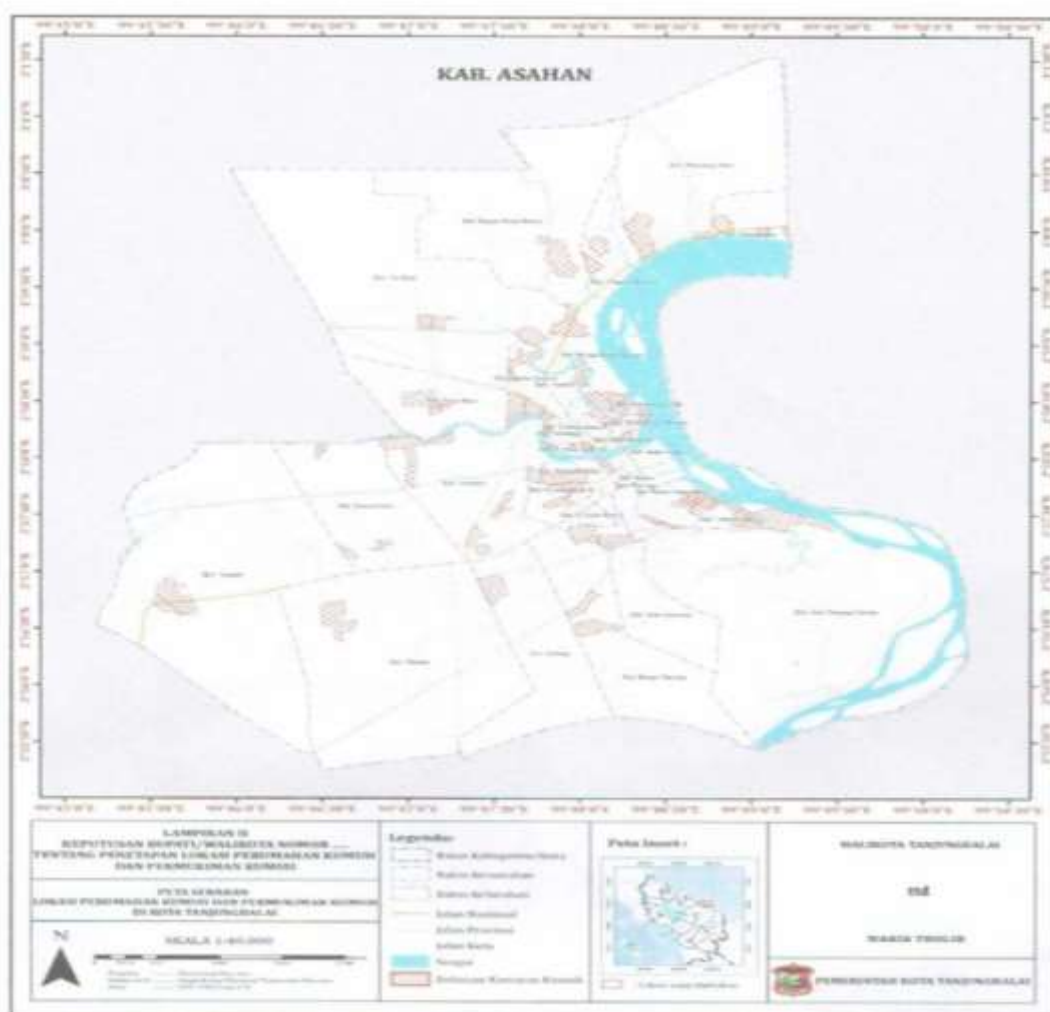


Figure 1.1 Map of the Distribution of Slum and Settlements Slum according to Mayor's Decree Number: 650/262/K/2022

It is important to remember that slum management is not just about improving physical infrastructure, but must also involve improving the social and economic quality of life of residents, as well as sustainable environmental management. (Sugiarto, Yamin s, et al., 2024). Therefore, in the sustainable development planning of Tanjungbalai, the determination of slum areas must be an integral part of efforts to create an inclusive, safe, and livable city for all its citizens. The phenomenon of slum areas in Tanjungbalai City is one of the realities that cannot be ignored in the dynamics of urban development. The increasing flow of urbanization that is not balanced with optimal spatial planning and land use control has led to the emergence of settlements that grow irregularly. Many residents build houses on uninhabitable land, such as riverbanks, coastal areas, and areas with high environmental risks, without

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adequate access to clean water, sanitation, or other basic infrastructure. Because areas that clearly show characteristics of slums have not been officially determined by the local government, this can hinder the implementation of handling and improvement programs (Akus Harmoko et al., 2024). On the other hand, limited regional budgets and the lack of integration of cross-sector data and policies have meant that slum management has not been carried out effectively and sustainably. This phenomenon shows a gap between real conditions in the field and the determination and handling system that should be the basis for city development planning. If left unchecked, this condition has the potential to expand slum areas and worsen the quality of life of the community, while also hampering the vision of sustainable development in Tanjungbalai City. Therefore, mapping and determining the status of slum areas is very important as a basis for inclusive, targeted, and sustainable development planning.

Research on the determination of slum status in Tanjungbalai City is very urgent considering the increasing challenges of urbanization faced by this city. Slum areas not only have a direct impact on the quality of life of residents, but are also an indicator of poor urban governance that can hinder efforts to realize sustainable development. Without evidence-based data and policies, various poverty alleviation programs, settlement planning, and infrastructure development are at risk of not being on target. Another urgency lies in the urgent need to have a slum area determination system that is not only legal-formal, but also responsive to the social and environmental dynamics of the community. With increasingly limited urban space and increasing housing needs, a fair, inclusive, and sustainable urban development strategy must start from handling marginalized areas. This research is expected to be able to provide a real contribution in supporting the data-based development planning process and encourage more strategic and targeted policy making by local governments.

So far, most studies on slum areas have focused more on the technical aspects of physical settlement planning or limited to mapping areas based on general slum parameters (Harahap et al., 2024). However, there are not many studies that specifically highlight how the process of determining the status of slum areas itself plays an important role in the grand scheme of sustainable urban development planning, especially in the context of an area such as Tanjungbalai City which has unique geographic and socio-economic characteristics. In addition, there is still a gap in studies that integrate spatial data, local policies, and community involvement in the process of determining slum areas. This is an important gap that needs to be filled, so that the determination of area status is not only administrative, but also contextual and participatory. This study aims to fill this gap by providing a new perspective on how the determination of slum area status should be designed as the initial step in the process of inclusive, adaptive, and sustainable urban development.

## Identification of problems

Tanjungbalai City faces significant challenges in managing residential areas, especially related to the existence and growth of slum areas. This problem arises along with the lack of optimal spatial planning, increasing population, and limited government resources in managing densely populated residential areas. One of the problems is the absence of a structured and comprehensive slum area status determination process. Inaccuracy or delay in determining slum status also has the potential to cause inefficient allocation of development resources. In addition, minimal community involvement and weak data integration between sectors add complexity to inclusive and sustainable urban development planning.

## Formulation of the problem

Based on the problem identification above, the problem formulation in this research can be structured as follows:

1. What is the existing condition of slum areas in Tanjungbalai City based on the applicable slum indicators?
2. What are the obstacles faced in the process of determining slum area status in Tanjungbalai City?
3. What is the role of determining slum area status in supporting sustainable development planning in Tanjungbalai City?
4. What strategies can be developed to strengthen the process of determining slum status effectively and integratively in the context of sustainable development?

## LITERATURE REVIEW

### Definition and Criteria of Slum Areas

According to Law Number 1 of 2011 concerning Housing and Residential Areas, slums are settlements that are not habitable due to building irregularities, high building density, and the quality of buildings and infrastructure that do not meet requirements.

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The Directorate General of Human Settlements of the Ministry of PUPR has set several criteria for identifying slum areas, including:

1. Non-Economic Vitality: includes the suitability of space utilization with spatial planning, physical condition of buildings, and population density.
2. Economic Vitality: assessing the strategic location of the area, the function of the area in the allocation of urban space, and the distance to the residents' livelihoods.
3. Land Ownership Status: includes land ownership status and land certificate.
4. Condition of Infrastructure and Facilities: includes road conditions, drainage, clean water, and waste water.
5. Local Government Commitment: assessing the government's desire to handle slum areas through the provision of funds and institutional mechanisms.

## Typology of Slum Areas

Wicaksono (2010) classifies slum settlements into seven typologies based on region, namely:

1. Slums in coastal and coastal corridors.
2. Slums around socio-economic activity centers.
3. Old slums in the city center.
4. New slums on the outskirts of the city.
5. Slums in tidal areas.
6. Slums in disaster-prone areas.
7. Slums on the banks of the river.

## Integration in Tanjungbalai City Development Planning

The 2021–2026 Tanjungbalai City Medium-Term Regional Development Plan (RPJMD) emphasizes the importance of integrating sustainable development principles into the vision, mission, goals, targets, strategies, and direction of regional development policies and programs. This includes analysis of aspects of geography, demographics, public welfare, public services, and regional competitiveness, with the aim of realizing environmental integrity and the welfare and quality of life of present and future generations.

## Framework

Sustainable development is a strategic approach in urban planning that balances social, economic, and environmental aspects. One of the main challenges in realizing sustainable urban development is the existence of slum areas. In Tanjungbalai City, slum areas emerged due to population growth that was not balanced by adequate spatial planning and infrastructure.

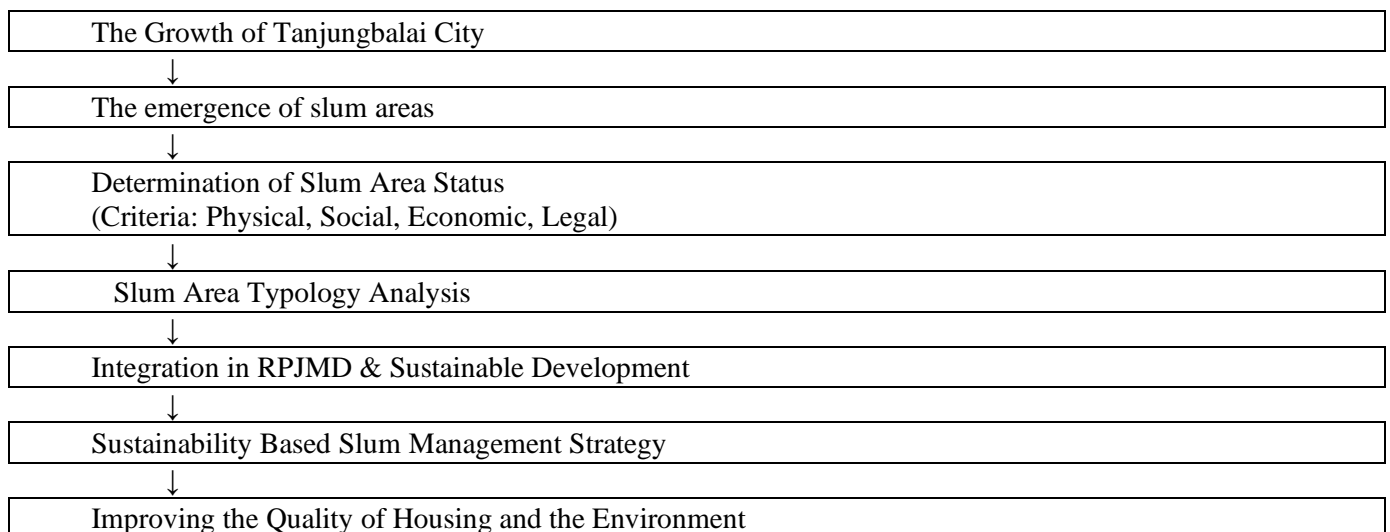


Figure 2.1 Framework of Thought

Determining the status of a slum area is an important initial step in the strategy for handling it. This status is determined based on technical criteria such as building conditions, basic infrastructure, sanitation, and population density. This determination also takes into account the typology of the area, such as riverbanks, coastal areas, or dense areas in the city center. Experts, such as Wicaksono (2010) and sources from the Directorate General of Human Settlements (2020), stated that a multidimensional approach is needed in assessing slum areas, covering socio-economic aspects, physical conditions, land legality, and local government commitment. In the context of Tanjungbalai City, the 2021–2026 RPJMD has set a sustainable development agenda, including handling slum areas. Therefore, synergy between determining slum area status and sustainable development policies is key in efforts to improve the quality of settlements and community welfare. With this framework, the research is directed to examine how the process of determining slum area status is carried out, how it is integrated into city development planning, as well as the challenges and opportunities for realizing sustainable development in Tanjungbalai.

## RESEARCH METHODS

This study uses a descriptive qualitative approach, with the aim of gaining an in-depth understanding of the process of determining slum status in sustainable development planning in Tanjungbalai City. This approach was chosen because it is appropriate for exploring complex and contextual social phenomena, especially related to public policy, urban planning, and the social dynamics of the communities involved in it. (Sugiarto, Kamakaula, et al., 2024). According to Creswell & Poth (2020), a qualitative approach is very appropriate when researchers want to understand the meaning behind certain actions, policies, or social processes, and explore the perspectives of the actors involved. In this context, qualitative research allows researchers to explore more broadly the processes, constraints, and opportunities in determining slum status.

### Types and Approaches of Research

This type of research is qualitative descriptive. This design aims to describe and explain systematically and factually the existing conditions of slum areas, the process of determining the status of the area, and its relationship to sustainable urban development. Sugiyono (2020) explains that qualitative descriptive research is used to describe phenomena that occur in the field as they are, without data manipulation and emphasizes the depth of analysis rather than the number of samples.

### Location and Time of Research

This research was conducted in Tanjungbalai City, North Sumatra, focusing on several residential areas that have indications of slums, both those that have been formally designated and those that have not. The research period is planned for the period of 2025.

### Data Collection Sources and Techniques

The data collected consists of:

1. Primary data, obtained through in-depth interviews with key informants such as officials from the Housing and Settlement Service, Bappeda, community leaders, and residents living in slum areas.
2. Secondary data, in the form of policy documents, slum area maps, program reports, and statistical data from relevant government agencies.

Data collection techniques include:

1. Semi-structured interviews, to obtain flexible data but still focused on the research theme.
2. Direct observation of the physical condition of residential areas.
3. Documentation studies, to review relevant policies and regulations.

### Data Analysis Techniques

Data analysis was carried out qualitatively interactively as stated by Miles, Huberman, & Saldaña (2020), through three main stages:

1. Data reduction, namely the process of selecting, simplifying, and focusing on relevant data.
2. Presentation of data, in the form of narratives, tables, or thematic maps to facilitate understanding.
3. Drawing conclusions and verification, based on patterns and findings emerging from field data.

Data validity is maintained through source and method triangulation techniques, to ensure that the information obtained is consistent, accurate and reliable.

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## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### What are the existing conditions of slum areas in Tanjungbalai City based on the applicable slum indicators?

The existing condition of slum areas in Tanjungbalai City can be seen through a number of indicators that have been set by the government, as stated in PUPR Ministerial Regulation No. 14 of 2018 concerning Prevention and Improvement of the Quality of Slum Housing and Slum Settlements. The slum indicators include aspects of building structures, environmental roads, environmental drainage, provision of drinking water, waste management, waste management, and fire protection.

Table 4.1 List of Locations and Areas of Slum Areas in Tanjungbalai City

No	Name of Sub-district	Subdistrict	Area of Slum Area (Ha)	Level of Slums
1	Work	South Tanjungbalai	10.5	Currently
2	Cape Flower	The Mayor of East Java	8.7	Light
3	Ivory	Mayor	12.3	Currently
4	Prosperous	North Tanjungbalai	6.4	Light
5	Tanjung Balai City	South Tanjungbalai	5.2	Light
6	Jambi	Mayor	14.1	Heavy
7	The Sea	North Tanjungbalai	9.6	Currently

The total area of slum areas identified in Tanjungbalai City reaches around 66.8 hectares, with slums spread across six main sub-districts. The highest level of slums is in Sijambi Village with a severe classification, characterized by high building density, minimal access to clean water, poor drainage systems, and inadequate environmental sanitation. This data is an important basis for determining the priority of slum management programs through an integrated approach, both through national programs such as KOTAKU (City Without Slums), and local development initiatives based on community participation. Based on observations and secondary data from related agencies, several areas in Tanjungbalai City show indications of mild to moderate slums. For example, in the Asahan Riverbank area and some coastal areas, semi-permanent houses were found with physical conditions of buildings that were not habitable. Many of these buildings were built without adequate technical planning and are in high densities that exceed the carrying capacity of the land.



Figure 4.1 Slum Areas in Tanjungbalai City

In terms of infrastructure, environmental roads in many slum areas are still dirt or semi-permanent roads with a width that does not meet minimum standards, making it difficult for residents and emergency vehicles to move.

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The environmental drainage system also tends not to function optimally, with many channels being clogged or damaged, causing waterlogging during the rainy season and increasing the risk of environmental-based diseases. Access to drinking water is also a major problem. Although some residents have accessed clean water from the PDAM, there are still groups of people who rely on dug wells or surface water that is vulnerable to pollution. Domestic waste and garbage management has also not been properly organized. Many households dump waste into rivers or open channels, and waste collection services have not reached all areas. Other indicators such as fire protection are almost non-existent in the form of fire extinguishing facilities or early warning systems. High building density and flammable building materials increase the risk of fires that have the potential to spread quickly. With conditions like this, slum areas in Tanjungbalai City not only reflect the backwardness of physical and infrastructure aspects, but also indicate the need for immediate intervention in terms of environmental management, improving the quality of life, and strengthening institutional capacity. Determining the status of slum areas based on objective indicators is a crucial initial step in developing targeted and sustainable development programs.

### **What are the obstacles faced in the process of determining the status of slum areas in Tanjungbalai City?**

The process of determining the status of slum areas in Tanjungbalai City is inseparable from various technical, institutional, and social obstacles. These obstacles contribute to the slow process of legalizing slum areas administratively and hinder integrated and targeted handling efforts. One of the main obstacles is the limited availability of accurate and up-to-date spatial and non-spatial data. The process of identifying slum areas requires comprehensive and integrated data across sectors, such as physical environmental data, population, infrastructure, and land ownership status. However, in Tanjungbalai City, most of this data is still spread across various agencies and has not been integrated into a solid slum information system. This makes it difficult to determine the boundaries of slum areas and their classification based on applicable indicators.

The next obstacle is the lack of human resources and institutional capacity, especially in terms of technical mapping and area analysis. The responsible agencies often lack certified technical personnel or experts in geospatial data processing and slum area planning. As a result, the process of verifying and validating areas is slow, and often unsustainable from year to year. In addition, there are obstacles in cross-sector and institutional coordination, both at the city level and between regional apparatuses. The process of determining slum area status requires synergy between the Housing and Settlement Areas Agency, Bappeda, Public Works Agency, and local sub-districts. However, in practice, this coordination has not been optimal. Differences in perception, sectoral egos, and the absence of an integrated work system often hinder the process of determining areas quickly and comprehensively.

Another significant obstacle is the socio-political aspect and community resistance, especially in areas located on uncertified land or state land. Some residents are concerned that the determination of slum status will result in relocation or eviction. This concern has led to the emergence of resistance to surveys or data collection conducted by the government. The lack of socialization and community involvement in the initial process is the main cause of this resistance. On the other hand, regulatory and financing support are also challenges. Although there are national regulations governing the mechanism for determining slum areas, not all local governments have derivative regional policies (Regional Regulations or Mayoral Regulations) that support the operationalization of this process. In addition, limited regional budgets for mapping and technical measurement activities result in dependence on central or donor assistance, which is often not routine. Overall, these various obstacles show that determining slum status is not just an administrative process, but is part of an urban governance system that requires a multi-level, cross-sectoral, and participatory approach. Therefore, efforts to improve and strengthen the system need to be carried out comprehensively so that the process of determining slum areas can become a strong foundation for sustainable urban development.

### **What is the role of determining slum area status in supporting sustainable development planning in Tanjungbalai City?**

Determination of slum area status plays a very crucial role in sustainable urban development planning, especially in Tanjungbalai City which is facing major challenges in managing residential areas. Without a clear and objective determination of slum area status, development planning will proceed without the right direction, resulting in inefficient resource allocation and off-target development programs. One of the main roles of determining slum area status is as a basis for formulating data-based urban development policies. (Ramadhani & Nuraini, 2024). With accurate data on slum conditions, local governments can design more targeted infrastructure development and improvement programs, according to the severity of slums in each area. For example, areas with severe slums require intervention in the form of basic infrastructure improvements such as roads, drainage, and clean water supply, while areas with mild slums can get priority in improving the quality of buildings and public facilities.

In addition, determining the status of slum areas is the basis for allocating development budgets effectively and efficiently. In the context of sustainable development, proper budget allocation is essential to avoid waste and ensure that every fund spent can have a positive impact on society. By having a clear map of slum areas, the budget can be focused on areas that need the most urgent attention, and allows for more optimal use of funds, both from the APBD and central government assistance. Determining the status of slum areas also facilitates the integration of cross-sector policies. In the context of sustainable development, handling slum areas involves not only the housing and settlement sectors, but also the health, education, transportation, and environmental sectors. Therefore, determining the status of slum areas is the starting point in creating understanding between sectors, so that the policies taken are more holistic and mutually supportive. For example, organizing slum areas equipped with good sanitation infrastructure can improve public health, reduce negative impacts on the environment, and improve overall quality of life.

From the perspective of community empowerment, the determination of slum status also plays an important role. The determination process that actively involves the community will strengthen their sense of ownership and participation in development. Communities who feel involved in determining the status of slum areas will be more likely to support government programs and be more aware of the importance of maintaining cleanliness and maintaining the sustainability of their environment. This will encourage the creation of more inclusive urban development, which involves the community in every stage, from planning to implementation. In addition, the determination of slum status also acts as a mechanism for controlling and evaluating urban development. With a clear determination, evaluation of development achievements can be carried out periodically and measurably. The government can identify whether the interventions carried out have been effective in reducing the level of slums or have actually worsened the condition of the area. This allows for continuous improvement in accordance with the principles of sustainable development, namely considering environmental, social, and economic sustainability in every policy taken. Overall, the determination of slum status in Tanjungbalai City is very important to support sustainable development planning. Without a clear status and a strong foundation, urban development could be at risk of being unfocused, non-inclusive, and not considering the needs and capacities of the local community. Therefore, the determination of slum status must be used as an initial step in more integrated, focused, and sustainable development planning.

### **What strategies can be developed to strengthen the process of determining slum status effectively and integratively in the context of sustainable development?**

An effective and integrated slum status determination process requires a holistic approach, involving various stakeholders, and based on valid and current data. In the context of sustainable development, the following strategies can be developed to strengthen the slum status determination process in Tanjungbalai City:

#### **Strengthening Data Systems and Mapping of Slum Areas**

The first strategy that needs to be developed is strengthening the data system and mapping of slum areas that are more accurate, integrated and technology-based. (Harahap et al., 2024). One important step in this regard is the development of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) that allows for more detailed and dynamic mapping and monitoring of slum areas. By using GIS, data on the physical condition of the environment, population density, access to basic infrastructure, and other indicators can be clearly described. The preparation of slum maps based on the latest spatial and non-spatial data is very important so that decisions in determining slum status can be more targeted and evidence-based. This can also minimize errors in identifying slum areas and ensure a more efficient and targeted development planning process.

#### **Improving Coordination and Collaboration Between Sectors and Institutions**

The second strategy is to strengthen coordination and collaboration between related sectors and institutions, both at the city, provincial, and national government levels. Determination of slum area status cannot be done by just one agency or sector. Therefore, there needs to be a common understanding between the Housing and Settlement Agency, Bappeda, Public Works Agency, Environmental Agency, and other related agencies. It is important to build an integrated working mechanism, where each sector can contribute to mapping, assessing, and handling slum areas according to their authority and field. For example, the Public Works Department can play a role in road and drainage arrangements, while the Environmental Department focuses on waste management and water quality. In addition, collaboration with the private sector and the community also needs to be strengthened. The private sector can help with funding and providing technology, while the community must be involved from the beginning in the process of

determining the status of slum areas to ensure that the programs implemented are in accordance with local needs and are sustainable.

### **Community Empowerment and Public Participation**

The third strategy is to increase community empowerment and public participation in the process of determining the status of slum areas. People living in slum areas are the ones who know the most about the condition of their environment and the challenges they face every day. Therefore, it is important to involve them in the data collection process and in determining the priorities of improvement programs. Community participation in the process of determining slum status can also strengthen a sense of ownership and support the sustainability of development programs. Community Empowerment Programs can be implemented to educate residents about the importance of environmental improvement and ways to reduce slums independently, for example through community-based waste management, sanitation improvements, or the construction of shared public facilities.

### **Socialization and Counseling**

To overcome resistance to the process of determining slum status, it is important to conduct intensive socialization and counseling to the community. A clear explanation of the benefits of determining slum status and its positive impacts on the community, such as improving the quality of life, improving basic facilities, and access to government programs, will reduce concerns or fears of relocation or eviction. This outreach should involve various appropriate communication media, such as community forums, face-to-face meetings, brochure distribution, or even social media campaigns. In this way, the community can better understand the long-term goals of slum status determination and better support the government's efforts to improve the quality of their environment.

### **Formulation of Policies that Support the Determination of Slum Area Status**

The fifth strategy is the formulation of policies that support the determination of slum area status, both at the local and national levels. The Tanjungbalai City Government needs to develop a Regional Regulation (Perda) or Mayor Regulation (Perwal) that specifically regulates the handling of slum areas. This policy can include a mechanism for determining slum area status, division of authority between related agencies, and adequate budget allocation. In addition, policies that support the provision of incentives for the private sector and administrative convenience for slum improvement programs also need to be formulated. This can include providing tax incentives or licensing facilities for the construction of more habitable houses or public facilities.

### **Utilization of Sustainable Funding**

The final strategy is the development of sustainable funding sources for slum management. The government needs to explore various funding sources that do not only rely on regional budgets, but also collaborate with the private sector, financial institutions, and international aid programs. This sustainable funding is important to ensure that slum improvement programs can run continuously without relying on limited annual budget allocations. Overall, strengthening the process of determining the status of slum areas in Tanjungbalai City requires an integrated and sustainable approach. Strategies involving data and mapping improvements, strengthening inter-sectoral coordination, community empowerment, and developing supportive policies will accelerate this process and ensure that slum management can run effectively and have a long-term positive impact on sustainable urban development.

## **CLOSING**

### **Conclusion**

Determining the status of slum areas is a fundamental step in planning the sustainable development of Tanjungbalai City. Slum areas spread across various sub-districts, with varying levels of slums, require targeted interventions based on accurate data. This process not only involves physical identification of the area, but also involves cross-sector coordination, community empowerment, and consistent policy support. Proper slum status determination can be the basis for more inclusive, efficient, and sustainable urban development planning. With mapping based on data and technology, and involving various stakeholders, the government can ensure that slum improvement programs not only focus on infrastructure, but also on improving the quality of life of the community, environmental sustainability, and socio-economic empowerment.

**Suggestion**

1. Strengthening Data and Mapping Systems: It is recommended to strengthen geographic information systems (GIS) in slum mapping, by integrating accurate and up-to-date spatial and non-spatial data. This will speed up the process of slum identification and facilitate future development evaluation.
2. Cross-Sector Coordination: The Tanjungbalai City Government needs to improve coordination between related agencies (Housing Agency, Bappeda, Public Works Agency, Environmental Agency) to formulate more integrated policies in determining and handling slum areas.
3. Community Participation: Communities living in slum areas must be involved in the process of determining slum status. Intensive education and socialization are needed to reduce resistance to slum management programs.
4. Supportive Policies: There needs to be local policies that support the determination of slum status, including incentive policies for the private sector and ease of licensing in developing more habitable slum areas.
5. Sustainable Funding: The Tanjungbalai City Government needs to explore various sources of sustainable funding to support slum development, including collaboration with the private sector and financial institutions.

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