

**Alleviating Poverty in Indonesia through Zakat during the Period 2019–2023****Yogi Afrianto**

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**Abstract:** Zakat is a portion of an individual's wealth that must be paid out of their possessions because it contains the rights of others that must be given or purified. History demonstrates the power of zakat in alleviating poverty between 717 and 720 AD during the reign of the Caliph Umar bin Abdul Aziz. In Indonesia, the poverty rate remains high, with 23.85 million people still trapped in poverty. One approach the Indonesian government can take is to optimize zakat receipts and then distribute them appropriately and professionally. Through zakat, poverty will be reduced and economic activity in society will increase. Furthermore, the Indonesian government already has Zakat Collection Institutions (Amil Zakat) and Zakat Agencies (Bandung Amil Zakat). The government's task is to develop policies and procedures for these existing zakat institutions to eradicate poverty from Indonesia. Research shows that zakat plays a significant role in wealth redistribution and poverty reduction. However, challenges in zakat collection and distribution require careful monitoring to ensure compliance with regulations and ensure zakat's effectiveness.

**Keywords:** poverty and zakat**INTRODUCTION**

Zakat is a portion of an individual's wealth that must be given away, as within one's wealth lies the rights of others that must be delivered or purified. Zakat also has the potential to reduce poverty, as evidenced during the caliphate of Umar bin Abdul Aziz (717–720 AD). Within three years, Umar bin Abdul Aziz succeeded in eradicating poverty through zakat, to the extent that zakat administrators eventually struggled to find recipients, as poverty had virtually disappeared.

From this historical perspective, zakat can serve as an instrument for the government to alleviate poverty and drive economic growth in society, provided it is managed and distributed effectively.

In Indonesia, zakat holds significant potential. With a population of approximately 270 million, Indonesia currently has 512 Zakat Management Bodies (Badan Amil Zakat), 49,132 zakat collection units, and 10,124 zakat administrators. The potential zakat revenue is estimated to reach IDR 327 trillion annually.

In 2023, zakat collected in Indonesia amounted to IDR 32.32 trillion, representing a 43.74% increase compared to 2022. In 2024, the collection rose further to IDR 41 trillion. However, the zakat actually collected by the Indonesian government remains far below its potential. This poses a challenge for the government moving forward, namely to optimize zakat collection.

As of March 2025, the number of people living in poverty in Indonesia reached 23.85 million (Badan Pusat Statistik). With comprehensive public education on the importance of zakat, the state's zakat collection can be optimized. Furthermore, zakat distribution must be managed carefully to avoid misallocation. Accurate data collection of zakat recipients by zakat officers is essential to ensure that zakat does not fall into the hands of those who are not entitled.

## RESEARCH METHOD

In this study, the research method used is descriptive analysis, which aims to describe in detail the level of zakat and the level of poverty in Indonesia. This method explains and analyzes the trends of zakat and poverty in Indonesia during the period 2019 to 2023.

The data sources used in this research are secondary data obtained from the National Zakat Agency (Badan Amil Zakat Nasional) and the Central Bureau of Statistics (Badan Pusat Statistik). The use of secondary data allows the researcher to develop and explain the issues addressed in this study.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The research was conducted using a descriptive analysis method by taking into account all aspects of the percentage of zakat levels in relation to the percentage of poverty levels in Indonesia from 2019 to 2023. The research data are presented as follows:



Figure 1. Development of Zakat in Indonesia (2019–2023)  
(Source: BAZNAS)

The development of zakat in Indonesia has experienced annual growth. In 2019, zakat increased by 12.50% from 2018, reaching IDR 10 billion. In 2020, zakat grew by 23.63%, with a total of IDR 12.5 billion.

However, in 2020 Indonesia was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, and by 2021 zakat growth slowed to 12.85%, totaling IDR 14.1 billion. The decline in zakat growth from 2020 to 2021 was due to the downturn in Indonesia's economy during the onset of the pandemic. In 2022, the economy began to recover after the government's strict restrictions on economic activities in 2020 and 2021. This recovery is reflected in the significant zakat growth of 58% in 2022, with a total of IDR 22 billion. In 2023, zakat continued to grow by 43.74%, reaching a total of IDR 32.3 billion.

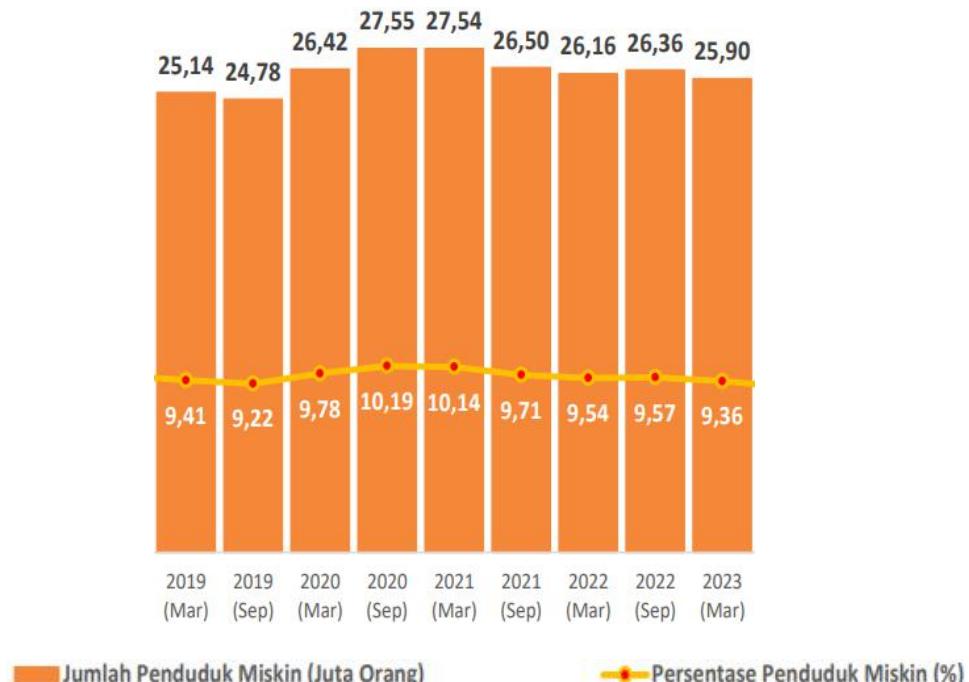


Figure 2. Number and Percentage of Poor Population in Indonesia (2020–2025)

The poverty rate in Indonesia during the 2019–2023 period shows a fluctuating trend. In 2019, the poverty rate was 9.22%. In 2020, poverty in Indonesia rose sharply to 10.19%, due to the outbreak of a new disease, the COVID-19 pandemic, which affected Indonesia and the world. COVID-19 caused a severe economic downturn in 2020. Public activities were strictly restricted, office hours were limited, and as a result the economy declined. Many layoffs occurred during that year. In 2021, conditions were not much different, as COVID-19 continued to restrict Indonesia's economic activities, although the poverty rate fell slightly to 9.71%. By 2022, the economy became more active, which reduced the poverty rate further to 9.57%. In 2023, Indonesia's poverty rate recovered further to 9.36%. By this year, citizens were no longer restricted in their activities, the economy improved, and COVID-19 had subsided.

Several studies suggest that zakat has the potential to alleviate poverty if managed properly (Jaenudin & Hamdan, 2022; Ahkamiyah & Rosyidi, 2019). Under optimal conditions, zakat can be utilized to support various needs such as healthcare, education, and the development of small and medium enterprises. However, challenges in zakat utilization often arise from inefficient management, suboptimal collection, and lack of clarity in distribution.

Hamdan (2022) also emphasizes the importance of synergy between zakat institutions and the government in tackling poverty. Optimally functioning zakat institutions can collaborate with government programs to achieve shared objectives. For example, zakat-based economic development programs can be integrated with community empowerment programs managed by local governments. Such integration would produce greater and more sustainable impacts.

## CONCLUSION

Proper management of zakat can contribute to poverty alleviation. The collection and distribution of zakat must be managed and carried out professionally to ensure that it is delivered accurately to those in need and entitled to receive it. The studies analyzed in this review indicate that optimal zakat operations are capable of providing direct financial assistance to the underprivileged, supporting education, and improving health as well as the socio-economic conditions of society.

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