



STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF ISLAMIC PHILANTHROPY IN PROMOTING HUMANITARIAN SUSTAINABILITY: A STUDY IN INDONESIA AND DENMARK

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ABSTRAK

Kegiatan pengabdian masyarakat ini dilaksanakan melalui International Community Service (ICS) 2025 dengan mengusung tema "Mendorong Keberlanjutan Kemanusiaan melalui Filantropi Islam." Tujuan utama kegiatan ini adalah untuk meningkatkan kesadaran serta memperkuat diskursus global mengenai peran strategis filantropi Islam dalam mendorong pembangunan ekonomi, pengentasan kemiskinan, dan keadilan sosial. Kegiatan ini dilaksanakan dalam bentuk seminar internasional secara daring, dengan menghadirkan narasumber dari Indonesia dan Denmark. Metode yang digunakan adalah pendekatan partisipatif melalui pemaparan materi, diskusi, serta interaksi aktif peserta. Kegiatan ini mengemukakan berbagai perspektif terkait peran zakat dalam mendukung pertumbuhan ekonomi, pengentasan kemiskinan, penguatan identitas Muslim minoritas, serta transformasi kolaborasi filantropi lintas sektor. Hasil kegiatan menunjukkan peningkatan pemahaman peserta terkait potensi adaptif dan transformatif filantropi Islam dalam berbagai konteks sosial ekonomi. Kegiatan pengabdian ini berdampak meningkatkan pemahaman peserta mengenai filantropi Islam serta mendorong penerapannya dalam pembangunan ekonomi dan pemberdayaan masyarakat. Rencana tindak lanjut dari program ini akan dilakukan pendampingan berkelanjutan dan penguatan kolaborasi internasional untuk penerapan filantropi Islam yang berkelanjutan.

ABSTRACT

This community service initiative was implemented through the International Community Service (ICS) 2025 under the theme "Empowering Humanity Sustainability Through Islamic Philanthropy." The primary objective was to enhance awareness and strengthen the global discourse on the role of Islamic philanthropy in fostering economic development, reducing poverty, and promoting social justice. The activity was conducted through an online seminar involving speakers from Indonesia and Denmark, utilizing a participatory approach consisting of presentations, discussions, and participant interaction. The program presented diverse perspectives on zakat's role in economic growth, poverty alleviation, identity strengthening among Muslim minorities, and the evolution of philanthropic collaboration across sectors. The outcomes demonstrated an increased understanding among participants regarding the adaptive and transformative potential of Islamic philanthropy in various socio-economic settings. This community service program has enhanced participants' understanding of Islamic philanthropy and encouraged its application in economic development and community empowerment. The follow-up plan includes continuous mentoring and the strengthening of international collaboration to support the sustainable implementation of Islamic philanthropy.

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INTRODUCTION

Indonesia, as the country with the largest Muslim population in the world, has complex challenges in terms of economic and social inequality. Although in general economic growth shows a positive trend, welfare disparities between urban and rural areas, as well as between upper and lower economic groups, are still very visible (Suprayitno, 2020). In this context, zakat as an Islamic social finance instrument has great potential to play a role in economic development and poverty alleviation.

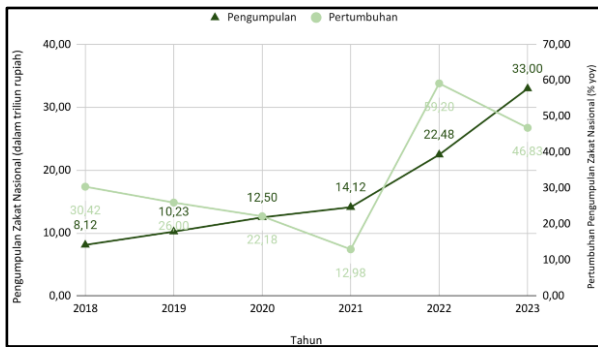
Various studies mention that zakat can be an effective tool for wealth redistribution and promoting social justice. Zakat has an important role in the Islamic economic system, not only as a religious obligation, but also as a strategic instrument to encourage equitable wealth distribution and create social justice. When managed effectively, zakat can improve people's welfare, especially for underprivileged groups, by providing sustainable economic support (Karmilah et al., 2024). The distribution of zakat covers eight categories of recipients, so that the distribution becomes more targeted in helping vulnerable groups (Karmilah et al., 2024). In addition, the principle of justice in zakat has similarities with the principles in the modern taxation system that prioritizes the principles of justice and equity, so that zakat can function as an instrument of reducing economic inequality effectively.

In addition to being a means of wealth distribution, zakat also strengthens social solidarity and fosters a sense of collective responsibility among community members. Zakat plays an important role in overcoming poverty and promoting economic justice, especially in facing the increasingly complex challenges of social

inequality in Muslim societies today (Baihaqi, n.d.; Malik, 2016). However, the effectiveness of zakat in reducing poverty still faces serious challenges. Some studies show that weaknesses in the management and institutional structure of zakat are the main obstacles in achieving the objectives of zakat optimally. Therefore, institutional reform and strengthening of zakat management are needed so that zakat is truly able to encourage economic equality and social justice as a whole (Malik, 2016).

Zakat that is managed productively not only functions as consumptive assistance, but is also able to increase people's purchasing power and encourage economic growth (Athoillah, 2018). In Indonesia, the potential of zakat is huge, estimated to reach IDR217 trillion per year. However, the realization of zakat collection is still far from optimal, so it requires strengthening more effective zakat governance (Ben Jedidia & Guerbouj, 2021).

The potential of zakat in Indonesia is huge. Some studies estimate that the national zakat potential can reach IDR 217 trillion per year. However, until now, the realization of its collection is still far from that Picture. In 2016, for example, the total zakat collected was only around IDR5 trillion, reflecting the large gap between the potential and realization of zakat. This condition shows the need to increase the effectiveness of zakat management in order to reach more muzakki (zakat payers) and mustahik (zakat recipients), and distribute zakat funds in a more targeted manner.



Picture 1. Zakat Collection Index

Based on the report of the National Board of Zakat (BAZNAS), the trend of national zakat collection from 2018 to the first semester of 2023 has increased despite fluctuations. In 2022, the total zakat collected reached more than IDR 22.4 trillion, and until mid-2023 it was recorded at IDR 14.7 trillion. The funds are then channeled through various programs, such as social assistance, health, education, economy, as well as advocacy and da'wah programs.

On the other hand, the national poverty rate has also shown a decline. The latest data in 2024 recorded a poverty rate of 8.57%. This condition opens a space for discussion on the extent of zakat's role in reducing poverty and encouraging economic growth.

A number of previous studies have emphasized the importance of productive approach in zakat management to increase its impact on economic development. Zakat is also considered to be able to increase people's purchasing power and minimize social inequality, so that it can encourage the creation of economic justice.

Productive approach in zakat management becomes an important strategy to increase its contribution to economic development, especially in empowering mustahik or eligible zakat recipients. Through this approach, zakat does not only function as a short-term social assistance, but

also as an instrument of sustainable economic empowerment. Productive zakat provides support in the form of business capital and entrepreneurship training, so that mustahik have the ability to establish and manage businesses independently (Saputra, 2024; Mafluhah, 2024). Furthermore, productive zakat initiatives encourage the creation of new jobs through the development of small and medium enterprises, which in turn can reduce the unemployment rate in the community (Mafluhah, 2024; Faisal et al., 2023). The success of productive zakat programs also has a direct impact on increasing the income of mustahik, thus accelerating their process of gradually moving out of poverty (Hasibuan, 2023; Faisal et al., 2023).

In addition to these economic benefits, productive zakat also contributes significantly to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This program supports several SDGs targets, including poverty reduction, inclusive economic growth, and increasing people's access to education and health services (Citaningati, 2024). This approach also offers long-term impact because it emphasizes sustainable economic practices, so that the benefits of zakat can be felt continuously and encourage economic stability in the future (Faisal et al., 2023). However, the implementation of productive zakat still faces challenges, especially in terms of unequal distribution and weak monitoring system, especially in regions such as Indonesia (Saputra, 2024). Therefore, strengthening the zakat governance system is key to maximizing the role of zakat in supporting sustainable economic development.

Based on this background, this service activity is designed to encourage the optimization of zakat as part of a sustainable development solution, especially through education and training on productive zakat. This activity is also expected to make a real contribution to increasing public understanding and strengthening the synergy between zakat institutions, government, and society in poverty alleviation efforts.

METHOD

This community service activity uses the lecture method as the main medium for delivering material. This method was chosen because it is effective in conveying information directly and increasing participants' understanding. Lectures are widely used in various community training programs, such as in tourism attraction improvement activities (Kamilah et al., 2024), training in making bridal gifts for PKK mothers (Susilowati & Farida, 2017), and socialization activity (Rahman, YA., et al., 2025).

This method is considered capable of facilitating knowledge transfer in a practical and efficient manner. The activities were carried out in the form of an online international seminar that enabled the delivery of information and education widely to participants. In its implementation, the speakers delivered material through presentations and lectures that focused on the themes of Islamic philanthropy, zakat, and sustainable development. The delivery of material was complemented by discussion and question and answer sessions to encourage active participation of participants. This method was chosen to facilitate effective knowledge transfer and provide space for participants to understand the material through direct interaction with the resource person.

The stages of activity implementation include:

1. Planning: Conceptualizing the seminar, selecting competent resource persons, and disseminating information through social media and institutional networks.
2. Implementation: The seminar began with the presentation of material by three resource persons, then continued with interactive discussion and question and answer sessions.
3. Evaluation: Collecting feedback from participants to assess the effectiveness of the program as well as possible follow-up activities.

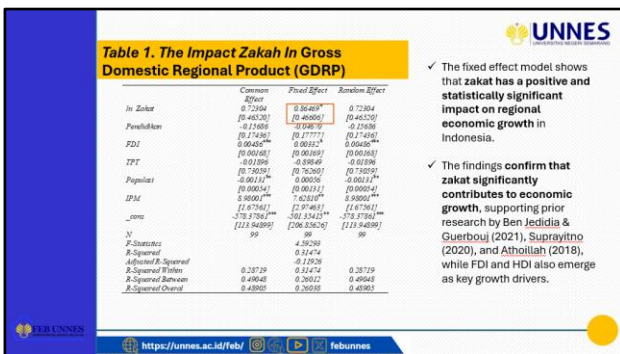
RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In the context of International Community Service (ICS) 2025 activities, the difference in zakat management between developing and developed countries is one of the important topics discussed. Experience from Indonesia, as a developing country with Muslim majority, shows that zakat is focused on economic empowerment, poverty reduction, and social welfare improvement through various productive programs. Zakat is managed in a structured manner by official institutions such as BAZNAS and LAZNAS to achieve social and economic goals.

In contrast, the experience presented by the resource person from Denmark illustrates that zakat management in developed countries focuses more on strengthening the identity of Muslim communities living as minorities. Zakat is used as a means to strengthen social solidarity, support da'wah activities, and create a sense of community. Zakat activities in the country are also directed to maintain the sustainability of Islamic social

institutions, including education and religious activity centers.

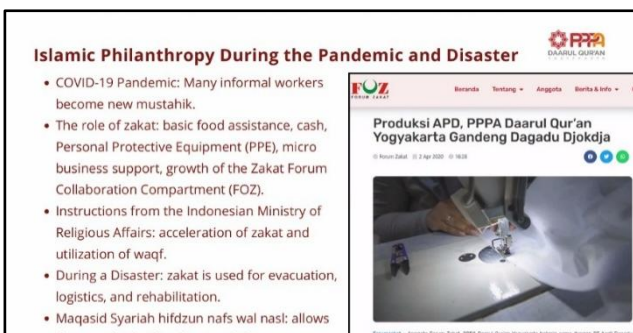
The discussion in ICS 2025 emphasized that differences in zakat management are influenced by the social, economic and cultural conditions of each country. Despite different objectives and practices, zakat remains a relevant instrument in facing social challenges, both in Muslim-majority countries and in countries with minority Muslim communities.



	Common Effect	Fixed Effect	Random Effect
In_Zakat	0.72584 [0.44523] 0.11606	0.36453* [0.40505] -0.11606	0.72384 [0.44523] -0.11606
Penjualan	0.174361 [0.00452**] 0.00452**	0.174361 [0.00452**] 0.00452**	0.174361 [0.00452**] 0.00452**
FDI	0.001851 [0.001851] 0.001851	0.001851 [0.001851] 0.001851	0.001851 [0.001851] 0.001851
TPT	0.738551 [0.00054] 0.00054**	0.738551 [0.00054] 0.00054**	0.738551 [0.00054] 0.00054**
Populasi	0.000541 [0.000541] 0.000541	0.000541 [0.000541] 0.000541	0.000541 [0.000541] 0.000541
IPM	0.000541 [0.000541] 0.000541	0.000541 [0.000541] 0.000541	0.000541 [0.000541] 0.000541
_cons	178.1788 [113.94899] 0.48955	-381.23421* [206.82526] 0.26518	-178.1788 [113.94899] 0.48955
N	99	99	99
R-Squared	0.28729	0.32474	0.28729
Adjusted R-Squared	0.26948	0.30612	0.26948
R-Squared Within	0.28729	0.32474	0.28729
R-Squared Between	0.26948	0.30612	0.26948
R-Squared Overall	0.28729	0.32474	0.28729

Picture 2. The Positive Impact of Zakat in GDP

The first presentation by Sri Runtiningsih highlighted the role of zakat as a significant Islamic fiscal instrument in promoting economic growth and poverty reduction in Indonesia. The research results presented showed that zakat has a positive and significant impact on Gross Regional Domestic Product (GRDP) and poverty reduction. However, Sri Runtiningsih emphasized the importance of synergizing zakat with other structural efforts such as education improvement and job creation to achieve sustainable poverty alleviation.



- COVID-19 Pandemic: Many informal workers become new mustahik.
- The role of zakat: basic food assistance, cash, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), micro business support, growth of the Zakat Forum Collaboration Compartment (FOZ).
- Instructions from the Indonesian Ministry of Religious Affairs: acceleration of zakat and utilization of waqf.
- During a Disaster: zakat is used for evacuation, logistics, and rehabilitation.
- Maqasid Syariah hidzrun nafs wal nasi: allows

Picture 3. Islamic Philanthropy in Indonesia

The second presentation by Maulana Kurnia Putra explained the practice of Islamic philanthropy in Indonesia from time to time until the modern era. He emphasized that zakat in Indonesia is now not only focused on direct social assistance, but also directed at economic empowerment, education, health, environment, and poverty reduction more broadly. He also highlighted the importance of cross-sector collaboration, such as synergy between zakat institutions, government, and society, to strengthen the effectiveness of zakat in supporting Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially in dealing with pandemics and disasters.



Picture 4. Discussion on Danish Islamic Philanthropy Management

The third presentation by Rukhsar Asif discussed the perspective of Islamic philanthropy in Denmark and Europe in general. He described the challenges faced by the Muslim community in Denmark, such as discrimination, identity crisis, and limited worship facilities. Zakat in the country is used to strengthen the identity of the Muslim community, establish Islamic social institutions, and create inclusive dawah and education spaces. He emphasized the importance of building strong institutions to support the sustainability of Muslim communities in minority countries.

Overall, the event provided a comprehensive insight into the role of zakat in various social and economic contexts, and encouraged cooperation between countries to strengthen the role of Islamic philanthropy in sustainable development. This activity also provides tangible benefits to the global Muslim community. Through this forum, participants from various countries gain a broader understanding of how zakat can be optimized to meet community needs, both in the context of strengthening the economy in developing countries and in maintaining identity and solidarity in countries with Muslim minorities. In addition, this activity encourages the active participation of Muslim communities in philanthropic activities, expands inter-agency cooperation networks, and builds collective awareness of the important role of zakat in creating a more inclusive, just, and economically empowered society.

In the context of International Community Service (ICS) 2025 activities, the differences in zakat management between developing and developed countries became one of the important topics discussed. Experience from Indonesia, as a developing country with Muslim majority, shows that zakat is focused on economic empowerment, poverty reduction, and social welfare improvement through various productive programs. Zakat is managed in a structured manner by official institutions such as BAZNAS and LAZNAS to achieve social and economic goals.

In contrast, the experience presented by the resource person from Denmark illustrates that zakat management in developed countries focuses more on strengthening the identity of Muslim communities living as minorities. Zakat is used as a means to strengthen social solidarity, support da'wah activities, and create a sense of community.

Zakat activities in the country are also directed to maintain the sustainability of Islamic social institutions, including education and religious activity centers.

The discussion in ICS 2025 emphasized that differences in zakat management are influenced by the social, economic and cultural conditions of each country. Despite different objectives and practices, zakat remains a relevant instrument in facing social challenges, both in Muslim-majority countries and in countries with minority Muslim communities. The implementation of ICS 2025 activities went according to plan and successfully reached participants from various countries. The first presentation was delivered by Sri Runtiningsih used an econometric approach and showed that zakat distribution has a significant positive effect on Gross Regional Domestic Product (GRDP) and poverty level.

The second presentation was delivered by Maulana Kurnia P., who emphasized the importance of cross-sector collaboration in zakat management, especially in crisis situations such as the COVID-19 pandemic. He underlined the urgency of integrating zakat with sustainable development goals (SDGs), digitalization of zakat, and synergy between the state, private sector, and civil society.

The third presentation was delivered by Rukhsar Asif from Denmark, who discussed the challenges of minority Muslim communities in Europe, including discrimination, identity crisis, and limited worship facilities. He emphasized the importance of strengthening Islamic identity through community empowerment, education, and collaboration with broader social movements.

Overall, the program resulted in participants' increased understanding of the complexity of the role of Islamic philanthropy in various social contexts. The program also opened up opportunities for international collaboration to strengthen zakat and community empowerment.

CONCLUSION

Community service activities through International Community Service (ICS) 2025 have significantly contributed to strengthening the role of Islamic philanthropy as a strategic instrument for economic development, poverty alleviation, and community empowerment. This activity shows that zakat is not only relevant in Muslim-majority countries, but also plays an important role in reinforcing the identity of Muslim communities in minority countries. The success of this activity demonstrates that cross-country collaboration in the management of Islamic philanthropy can generate a broad and sustainable positive impact. The results of the program indicate an improvement in participants' understanding and commitment to applying Islamic philanthropy for socioeconomic development. As a follow-up plan, continuous mentoring and the strengthening of international collaboration will be implemented to support the sustainable practice of Islamic philanthropy.

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