

STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF ZISWAF IN EFFORTS TO ACCELERATE ECONOMIC GROWTH CONTRIBUTION IN INDONESIA

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Abstract. Strengthening the management of ZISWAF as one of the main pillars of Islamic teachings has great potential to improve social welfare and economic growth in Indonesia. This study aims to explore the implementation of ZISWAF in Indonesia, focusing on the challenges faced and its prospects in the future. The design of this study is a qualitative type with the aim of descriptive analysis based on primary and secondary data from related literature, in-depth interviews were conducted with policy makers and zakat practitioners to obtain in-depth research results. The research findings identify several key challenges, such as lack of awareness of zakat obligations, lack of transparency in zakat management, and regulatory complexity that affects the effectiveness of zakat distribution. However, there are also bright prospects in the use of information technology to improve zakat collection, distribution, and supervision more efficiently and transparently. This study also highlights the need for closer collaboration between the government, financial institutions, and civil society in improving the effectiveness and fairness of zakat distribution in Indonesia. This study contributes to understanding the dynamics of zakat implementation in Indonesia and provides policy recommendations to enhance the role of zakat in economic and social development in the future

INTRODUCTION

Zakat, Infaq, Alms and Waqf (ZISWAF) is part of the state income source instruments which have a role in increasing economic growth, especially in Indonesia (Juhro et al., 2019) , which also aims to improve community welfare and reduce poverty rates (Risnaningsih, 2022).) . Considering that Indonesia is a country that has the largest Muslim population in the world, it has great potential in maximizing state revenue generation through this instrument, where ZISWAF activities themselves are a form of social care that has benevolent values and has been written in Islamic teachings.

The Muslim population in Indonesia at the end of 2023 will be 244.41 million people or 87.1% of the total population of Indonesia (Rizaty, 2024) . This very large number shows that Indonesia has a great opportunity to collect and manage community funds through ZISWAF for the welfare of the community. The National Zakat Amil Agency (BAZNAS) has calculated that the potential for obtaining zakat funds in Indonesia could reach 327 trillion rupiah. However, this potential is still far from being realized, where in 2023 the zakat funds collected will only reach around 33 trillion rupiah or 10% of the country's potential (Khaerunnisa, 2024) . These results can be used as evaluation material for Indonesian society, especially for managers, ulama or scholars, and also policy makers. It is hoped that all parties can work together in creating innovations that support the optimization of zakat management which will have an impact on increasing national economic growth.

Collecting and distributing ZISWAF, both in the form of funds and goods, is a challenge for managers. So in collecting and distributing ZISWAF an appropriate and effective strategy is needed so that the distribution of wealth in society can be realized evenly and also on target. Talking about strategy cannot be separated from the management implemented in an organization, this is also the case with the management of ZISWAF. So, to optimize the management of ZISWAF funds, several more comprehensive strategies or approaches are needed, because the challenges faced are so complex. By implementing good management in fund management, the existence of ZISWAF will have a very positive influence on economic growth.

Therefore, the author conducted this research with the title " Strengthening The Role Of Ziswaf In Efforts To Accelerate Economic Growth Contribution In Indonesia ", with the aim of analyzing the role of ZISWAF in the Indonesian economy, identifying challenges and potential in optimizing ZISWAF for economic growth, and also compiling strategy recommendations to strengthen ZISWAF's role in supporting economic growth.

LITERATURE REVIEW

A. Ziswaf

Zakat, infaq, alms and waqf or what is usually abbreviated as ZISWAF are social funds and are good deeds that have been called for in Islamic teachings to their adherents through the Koran and Hadith. Zakat is a social fund issued by individuals or groups which is mandatory when they fulfill the terms and conditions. Meanwhile, infaq, alms and waqf are social funds issued voluntarily (Juhro et al., 2019).

Zakat is the act of giving away a portion of property with certain conditions, which Allah requires the owner to hand over to those entitled to receive it with certain conditions (Hadiyanto & Pusvisasari, 2022). The types of zakat include zakat fitrah, zakat maal or zakat on wealth, zakat on income or zakat on professions, zakat on companies, zakat on gold, zakat on shares and zakat on mutual funds (BAZNAS, 2021). The required amount can be a certain percentage, such as 2.5% for zakat maal or zakat on wealth, zakat on gold, zakat on silver, 20% for zakat on found goods, and 5% or 10% for zakat on agriculture, depending on the level of difficulty of irrigation, as well as special requirements such as reaching the minimum limit (nisab) and ownership for a year (Amelia et al., 2023).

Infaq is carrying out a social service voluntarily, which is given in the form of property for the welfare of the community (Anjelina et al., 2020). Infaq can also be interpreted as additional donations given outside the zakat obligation. The difference between infaq and zakat lies in the time of expenditure; Zakat has a nisab, while infaq does not have a nisab and can be given regardless of a person's income level. From a legal perspective, zakat must be paid if the terms and conditions are met, while legal infaq can be obligatory, sunnah and haram (BAZNAS, 2021), depending on the purpose. Apart from that, in terms of recipients, zakat is aimed at eight ashnaf, while infaq can be given to anyone, such as family, orphans, etc. (Amelia et al., 2023).

Almsgiving (*sadaqah*) is doing a social act of worship voluntarily, both in the form of material and non-material, such as acts of mutual help, with the aim of getting closer to Allah SWT. (Anjelina et al., 2020). Alms in the Islamic concept has a broad meaning, not only limited to giving something material to the poor, but more than that alms includes all acts of kindness, both physical and non-physical (Afifah et al., 2022).

Waqf according to Law no. 41 of 2004, namely the legal act of a wakif to separate and/or hand over part of his property to be used forever or for a certain period in accordance with his interests for the purposes of worship and/or general welfare according to sharia. It can be concluded that waqf is an item whose ownership has been separated, both from individuals and institutions, whose ownership is then handed over for public purposes. So that waqf assets can be used by anyone without exception, but if the waqf principal is not used (exhausted), the waqf must be maintained and developed to be more productive so that the principal is not used up (Rahmah, 2021).

B. Economic growth

Indicators of a country's economic success can be seen from its economic growth, so it is not surprising that economic growth is usually considered an economic goal or indicator. Economic growth is a process where a country continuously changes its economic conditions to achieve what is considered better within a certain period of time. In general, economic growth is an increase in production capacity achieved through increasing national income (Kurniawan et al., 2021).

Economic growth is related to the process of increasing the production of goods and services in society's economic activities. It can be said that growth concerns development that has a single dimension and is measured by increasing production output and income. In this case, it means that there is an increase in national income which is indicated by its size value of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (Hartati, 2021).

Zakat, Infaq, Sadaqah, and Waqf (ZISWAF) has an important role in supporting economic growth, especially in Muslim-majority societies (Kahf, 2003). ZISWAF functions as an effective wealth redistribution instrument, channeling funds from the rich to the needy. This redistribution not only reduces economic inequality, but also increases the purchasing power of low-income people, which in turn drives aggregate demand and economic growth (Obaidullah & Shirazi, 2015). In addition, ZISWAF funds are often used to finance social infrastructure projects, such as education and health, which contribute to improving the quality of human resources and long-term economic productivity (Ascarya, 2020).

C. Previous Research

The results of research conducted by Zainudin with the title *Islamic Philanthropy in the Economic Growth of the Ummah through Ziswaf*, show that Islamic philanthropy through zakat, infaq, alms and endowments (ZISWAF) is a means for the nation's economic growth and for achieving the welfare of the poor. Apart from that, the ZISWAF institution is also able to collect and distribute zakat, infaq, alms and waqf to contribute to supporting the national economy (Zainudin, 2024).

Yandi Bastiar analyzed the performance measurement model of zakat institutions in Indonesia, showing that the performance of zakat institutions can be measured using several methods, including: National Zakat Index (IZN) measurement model, Exchange using the Village Zakat Index (IDZ, Center of Islamic measurement model Business and Economic Studies (CIBEST), Balance Scorecard Measurement, Indonesia Magnifinance of Zakat (IMZ), International Standard of Zakat Management or ISZM measurement model (Bastiar & Bahri, 2019).

Redi Hadiyanto and Lina Pusvisasari revealed in their research "Efficiency of Collection and Distribution of Zakat and Waqf in Indonesia", that the target in the zakat marketing strategy is to build communication and provide appropriate information to the public about the importance of zakat, provide organized appreciation of zakat, invite participation from all elements community, foster community enthusiasm or a sense of joy and help in implementing zakat. and there are many more goals obtained from zakat marketing strategies (Hadiyanto & Pusvisasari, 2022).

Research produced by Inne Risnaningsih with the title *The Role of Zakat and Waqf as an Alternative to Improving Community Welfare*, shows that the management of zakat and waqf should be carried out by the community through certain bodies that have been determined and supervised by the government, apart from that it requires human resources who are trustworthy and understand economic law based sharia (Al Quran and Hadith), as well as transparent governance so that it is right on target for both individuals and supports the country's economic development (Risnaningsih, 2022).

Nur Amelia has researched the *Urgency of Ziswaf in Economic Development in Indonesia*. From the results of the research, it can be concluded that increasing ZISWAF fund collection has a big impact on social religious life, efforts to eradicate poverty, equal development, human resource development, and economic growth (Amelia et al., 2023).

Eni Devi Anjelina in her research entitled *The Role of Zakat, Infaq and Alms in Improving Community Economic Welfare*, revealed that there are various roles of ziswaf to improve the economic welfare of people in Indonesia, to be able to improve welfare and reduce poverty in Indonesia, Indonesian people must understand the meaning of zizwaf first. first so that they can apply it in their lives in accordance with Islamic law. If the community can understand and trust the zizwaf management body, the benefits for the community are that they can develop zakat funds as business capital, to empower the recipients' economy (Anjelina et al., 2020).

Research with the title "Digital Era Waqf Development Management in Optimizing Waqf Potential" conducted by Nurul Faizah Rahmah, can be concluded that there are 3 crucial problems in developing digital waqf: First, from a financial perspective, the steps taken are to minimize costs incurred by partners waqf. Second, from an educational perspective, waqf partner institutions are still developing in educating the public about waqf, and the importance of waqf in improving the welfare of the community around the waqf partner institutions or in the wider area. Third, from a conceptual perspective. Waqf partner institutions want to develop a waqf concept according to sharia (Rahmah, 2021).

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The method in this research was carried out using a qualitative approach, which will focus on analyzing secondary data that is relevant to understanding the role of ZISWAF in Indonesia's economic growth. The research will begin by collecting and reviewing literature which includes ZISWAF annual reports, case studies, scientific articles and related policy documents. This secondary data will be analyzed to identify key trends, patterns and findings regarding the implementation of ZISWAF and its impact on the economy. This research will also explore previous studies linking ZISWAF with economic growth, to evaluate the potential for effective strengthening strategies in the Indonesian economic context. It is hoped that the results of this analysis will provide in-depth insight into optimizing the role of ZISWAF in accelerating economic growth.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. The Role of ZISWAF in The Indonesian Economy

1. Contribution of Zakat to Poverty Reduction

Zakat, as one of the main pillars of Islam, is expected to have a direct impact on reducing poverty. The zakat system in Indonesia is designed to reduce economic inequality by distributing wealth from wealthier individuals to less fortunate individuals. According to data from the National Zakat Amil Agency (BAZNAS), the zakat collected has shown significant potential in improving the quality of life of beneficiaries (BAZNAS, 2023). For example, zakat funds are often used to fund education and health, which contribute to improving the living standards of poor people.

2. The Role of Infaq Sadaqah in Local Economic Development

Infaq and sadaqah function as forms of voluntary donations that are often used to support various social programs. Infaq, which is a donation of an irregular amount, as well as sadaqah, which is alms in any form, play an important role in driving local economic growth by providing funds for various community development initiatives. Research by Arifin and Hasan shows that infaq and sadaqah help strengthen social and economic sectors that contribute to local economic growth (Arifin & Hasan, 2022).

3. Potential of Waqf in Infrastructure Development

Waqf, as a form of property that is donated for public purposes on a permanent basis, has great potential in supporting the development of infrastructure and public services. With proper use, waqf can function as sustainable capital for various development projects, such as schools, hospitals and mosques. This is in line with the findings of Hidayat and Muchtar, who stated that waqf can make a significant economic contribution by increasing community access to basic services and infrastructure (Hidayat & Muchtar, 2023).

Overall, ZISWAF contributes to the Indonesian economy in multifaceted ways, including wealth redistribution, support for social programs, and infrastructure development. Effective management and transparency in the use of ZISWAF funds is key to maximizing its impact on social welfare and economic growth. Therefore, good management strategies and collaboration between the government, zakat institutions and the community are very important to increase the effectiveness of ZISWAF in the Indonesian economy.

TABLE 1. Total ZISWAF Funds for 2019-2023

Year	Mal Zakat (IDR Trillion)	Zakat Fitrah (IDR Trillion)	Infaq / Alms (IDR Trillion)	Other Religious Social Funds (IDR Trillion)	Off- Balance Sheet ZIS & DSKL (IDR Trillion)	Waqf Funds (IDR Trillion)	Total ZISWAF Funds (IDR Trillion)
2019	3.1	0.2	2.5	0.45	2.95	1.5	10.2
2020	3,4	0.22	2.7	0.5	5.91	1.6	12.73
2021	3.6	0.23	2.8	0.52	7.01	1.8	14,16
2022	3.79	0.204	2.35	0.538	15.64	2,2	22.43
2023	3.66	0.383	3.89	2.39	21.98	2.5	32,303

(Source: BAZNAS and BWI, 2023)

Based on the data presented in the table, it can be seen that there has been a significant increase in the collection of Zakat, Infaq, Alms and Waqf (ZISWAF) funds from 2019 to 2023. In 2019, total ZISWAF funds were recorded at IDR 10.2 trillion. This figure continues to increase every year, reaching IDR 32.3 trillion in 2023, which shows growth of 44.02% compared to the previous year. The highest growth occurred in 2022, with an increase of 58.36% from the previous year, which was triggered by a significant jump in off-balance

sheet ZIS & DSKL (Other Religious Social funds), namely from IDR 7.01 trillion in 2021 to IDR 15.64 trillion in 2022. Apart from that, an increase in other religious social funds, as well as an increase in contributions from infaq/alms were also clearly visible in this period. Although Zakat Fitrah shows fluctuations, its contribution to total funds remains relatively small compared to other components.

Waqf funds also show a consistent increasing trend, from IDR 1.5 trillion in 2019 to IDR 2.5 trillion in 2023. Overall, this significant growth in ZISWAF funds reflects increased awareness and community participation in supporting social religious programs, which possibly influenced by various factors, including more intensive socialization, technological support in zakat collection, as well as the economic and social situation that developed during that period.

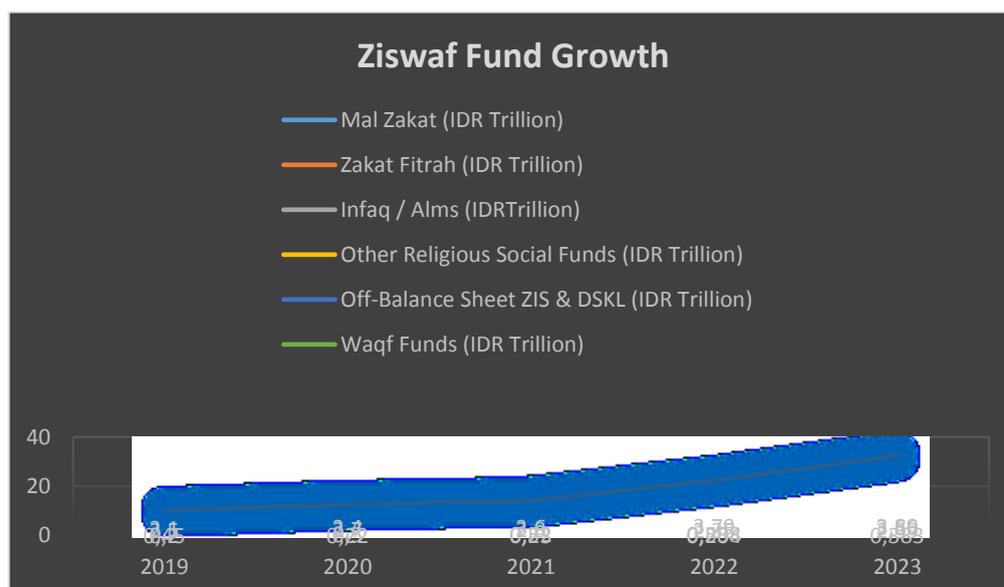


FIGURE 1. Ziswaf Fund Growth Chart 2019-2023
(Source: Data Processed)

In the period 2019 to 2023, there are significant variations in the growth of various categories of ZISWAF funds. Zakat Mal shows relatively stable annual growth, with the largest spike in 2020 and a slight decline in 2023. Zakat Fitrah shows fluctuations, with the highest growth in 2023, which is likely influenced by significant social and economic changes. Infaq/Alms experiences greater fluctuations, with a sharp decline in 2022 before recovering in 2023. This may reflect shifts in charity patterns and changing social needs. Other Religious Social Funds showed a dramatic spike in 2023, increasing almost 345% from the previous year, which may be related to new initiatives or larger social programs.

Table 2. ZISWAF Fund Growth for the 2019-2023 Period

Year	Zakat Mal	Zakat Fitrah	Infaq / Alms	Other Religious Social Funds	ZIS & DSKL Off the Balance Sheet	Waqf Fund	Total ZISWAF Funds
2019	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2020	9.68%	10.00%	8.00%	11.11%	100.68%	6.67%	24.51%
2021	5.88%	4.55%	3.70%	4.00%	18.55%	12.50%	10.24%
2022	5.56%	-8.70%	-16.07%	-3.85%	123.19%	22.22%	58.04%
2023	-3.42%	88.24%	65.11%	344.99%	40.47%	13.64%	44.34%

(Source: Data Processed)

Off-Balance Sheet ZIS & DSKL shows very high growth from 2020 to 2022, with a moderate decline in 2023. This suggests that more and more ZISWAF funds may be recorded off-balance sheet. The Waqf Fund experienced steady but moderate growth, with the most significant increase occurring in 2022. Overall, the ZISWAF Total Fund shows a strong growth trend, especially in 2022 and 2023. The largest increase occurred in 2023, with an increase of almost 44% from the previous year. This reflects a significant increase in ZISWAF's overall contribution, which may be due to increased community awareness and involvement in social religious programs.

B. Challenges and Potential in ZISWAF Optimization

Some of the main challenges in ZISWAF optimization include:

1. **Lack of Public Awareness and Understanding**

Many people do not fully understand the potential of ZISWAF in empowering the economy. Lack of education and outreach regarding ZISWAF is the main obstacle in collecting optimal funds (Ali, 2023). This is often caused by a lack of information received by the public regarding the benefits of ZISWAF and its effective distribution mechanisms.
2. **Regulations and Policies That Are Not Optimal**

Regulations related to ZISWAF in several countries still do not fully support the optimization of this instrument. For example, in the management of zakat, infaq, and sadaqah, there are sometimes overlaps between the applicable regulations, thereby hampering targeted distribution (Usman, 2022). In addition, waqf management is often faced with regulatory constraints that are less flexible in dealing with changing economic and social conditions.
3. **Lack of Transparency and Accountability in Management**

Transparency and accountability are important factors in maintaining public trust in the ZISWAF management institution. Unfortunately, several institutions still do not fully implement the principles of good governance in managing ZISWAF funds. This has an impact on the low level of public trust in channeling their funds through these institutions (Ahmad, 2023).
4. **Limited Use of Technology**

Although the technology has great potential to improve the efficiency of ZISWAF collection and distribution, its utilization is still limited. Some institutions still rely on traditional methods of fundraising, which are not only slow but also carry a high risk of losing funds. The development of a digital platform for managing ZISWAF has not been fully implemented in its entirety (Yusuf, 2024).

Behind these challenges, there are various potentials that can be utilized to optimize ZISWAF, including:

1. **Strengthening ZISWAF Education and Literacy**

Education and literacy efforts regarding ZISWAF need to be strengthened, especially among middle and upper class people who have great potential in donating funds (Karim, 2022). A sustainable campaign regarding the importance of ZISWAF in economic development must continue to be carried out, both through mass media, seminars and digital platforms.
2. **Improved Regulations and Policies**

The government needs to improve existing regulations to better support the optimization of ZISWAF. Policies that are more flexible and accommodating to changing socio-economic conditions will help increase community participation in ZISWAF (Rahman, 2023). Apart from that, tax incentives for ZISWAF donors can also be a strategy to encourage increased donations.
3. **Implementation of Technology in ZISWAF Management**

The use of digital technology can be the key to increasing the efficiency of ZISWAF management. Digital platforms can be used to make it easier for people to distribute donations, track the distribution of funds, and ensure transparency and accountability in their management. Blockchain technology, for example, has great potential in ensuring safe and transparent transactions (Huda, 2024).
4. **Synergy with the Private Sector**

Collaboration between ZISWAF institutions and the private sector can increase the effectiveness and efficiency of fund management. The private sector, with the networks and resources they have, can assist in collecting, distributing and monitoring ZISWAF funds, as well as in developing ZISWAF-based economic projects that have a broad impact (Nordin, 2023).

C. Strategy to Strengthen ZISWAF's Role in Supporting Economic Growth

Strengthening the role of ZISWAF becomes increasingly relevant considering increasingly complex global economic challenges, such as post-pandemic economic uncertainty, climate change and economic inequality. ZISWAF not only functions as a social instrument for the redistribution of wealth, but also as a mechanism for increasing financial inclusion and economic empowerment of the people. However, to optimize ZISWAF's role in the context of economic growth, innovative and sustainable strategies are needed.

1. Strengthening Regulations and Policies

One of the main strategies to strengthen ZISWAF's role is strengthening supporting regulations and policies. The government must be more active in creating regulations that facilitate the collection, management and distribution of ZISWAF in a transparent and accountable manner. In several countries, ZISWAF regulations are still weak and do not support synergy between ZISWAF management institutions and the formal financial sector. A study shows that strengthening regulations can increase the effectiveness of zakat and waqf distribution in reducing poverty and inequality (Hasan, 2020) .

2. Digitalization and Technology

Implementing digital technology in managing ZISWAF is an important step to increase transparency, accountability and efficiency. Digital platforms can be used to facilitate online zakat, infaq and sadaqah payments, as well as monitor waqf distribution in real-time. For example, the use of blockchain in managing ZISWAF can increase public trust in the management institution by providing immutable and easily accessible transaction records (Nasruddin, E., & Aziz, 2021) . Empirical studies show that technology adoption in the ZISWAF sector can increase community participation and the volume of funds collected

3. Education and Socialization

Education and outreach to the public regarding the importance of ZISWAF in economic development needs to be improved. Many people do not fully understand the potential of ZISWAF in supporting economic and social welfare. Public campaigns and community-based education programs can play an important role in increasing public awareness and participation (Abdullah, W., & Ismail, 2021) . Appropriate education can also reduce the potential for misuse of ZISWAF funds and ensure that these funds are managed optimally for the benefit of the people .

4. Integration with the Formal Financial Sector

The integration of ZISWAF with the formal financial sector such as sharia banks and microfinance institutions can strengthen its role in supporting economic growth. Through zakat or waqf-based microfinance schemes, poor and underprivileged communities can gain access to the financing they need to start a business or increase their income (Ahmed, 2017) . Case studies in several countries show that this integration can reduce dependence on government social assistance and encourage community economic independence.

5. Development of Waqf-Based Productive Projects

Productive waqf is an instrument that can be optimized to support economic development. Waqf projects that are managed professionally and productively, such as land waqf for agriculture, education and health, can generate long-term sustainable economic benefits. Reports show that productive waqf can be a long-term solution to problems of poverty and inequality if managed well (Kahf, 2020) .

CONCLUSION

ZISWAF (Zakat, Infaq, Sadaqah, and Waqf) plays a crucial role in the Indonesian economy through various mechanisms that contribute to wealth redistribution, poverty reduction, and infrastructure development. Zakat, in particular, has a direct impact in reducing economic inequality by distributing resources from the better off to the needy. Infaq and sadaqah, as forms of voluntary donations, support social and economic programs that contribute to local economic growth. Meanwhile, waqf has great potential in supporting sustainable public infrastructure development.

Data shows that ZISWAF fund collection in Indonesia experienced a significant increase from 2019 to 2023, with the highest growth occurring in 2022 and 2023. This reflects increased awareness and community participation in supporting social religious programs. However, there are challenges that must be overcome, such as lack of public awareness, regulations that are not yet optimal, management transparency that is still lacking, and limited use of technology.

To optimize ZISWAF's role in supporting economic growth, a strategy is needed that includes strengthening regulations, implementing digital technology, increasing education and outreach, as well as integration with the formal financial sector. In addition, developing waqf-based productive projects is a strategic step to create sustainable economic benefits for society. With effective and transparent management, ZISWAF has great potential to become an important instrument in supporting social welfare and economic growth in Indonesia.

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