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THE ROLE OF SHARIA COOPERATIVES IN SUPPORTING THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs) 2030 IN MEDAN CITY

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Abstract

The implementation of the SDGs in Indonesia and Medan in particular still faces several challenges, such as poverty and inequality. Therefore, an active role from various parties, including sharia cooperatives, is needed to support the implementation of the SDGs. This article aims to analyze the role of sharia cooperatives in supporting the achievement of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the city of Medan. The methodology of this scientific paper uses a quantitative method with the Analytical Hierarchy Process (AHP) analysis technique. Data sources were obtained from 12 sharia cooperatives in Medan City by involving 45 respondents consisting of cooperative administrators, members, and related stakeholders through questionnaires and interviews. The results show that sharia cooperatives in Medan City have a contribution to the SDGs, especially in the goals of poverty alleviation, economic growth and decent work, and reducing inequality. The role model of sharia cooperatives in supporting the SDGs developed in this article demonstrates that the primary priority is the innovation of sharia cooperative products and services in Medan City, followed by the second priority of strengthening the capacity of sharia cooperatives. The third priority is the expansion of networks and access to cooperatives and the last priority is the partnership and collaboration of sharia cooperatives in the city of Medan. The implications of this article have a theoretical impact on the future model analysis and development of sharia cooperatives. They can also inform the practical development of innovations and services of sharia cooperatives as a strategic instrument in achieving the 2030 SDGs in the city of Medan.

Keywords: AHP, Priority, Sharia Cooperatives, SDGs

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1. Introduction

In the era of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Data Revolution, Big Data, and the current state of Nawacita, information on development achievements is the primary source of data for policymakers in planning national development. Sustainable Development (SDGs) are a global agenda set by the United Nations (UN) to achieve sustainable development and address global challenges. Indonesia as a member state of the United Nations has committed to achieving the SDGs by 2030. However, the implementation of the SDGs in Indonesia still faces several challenges, such as poverty, inequality, and environmental damage. Therefore, the active role of various parties, including sharia cooperatives, is needed to support the implementation of the SDGs. Sustainable development has become a global agenda that attracts the attention of various countries in the world, including Indonesia. The SDGs are a global development framework that aims to end poverty, protect the earth, and ensure prosperity for all. The SDGs consist of 17 goals that must be achieved by 2030, covering economic, social, and environmental aspects. Indonesia, as one of the countries committed to achieving the SDGs, has integrated these goals into national and regional development plans, including in the city of Medan as one of the largest metropolitan cities in Indonesia.

However, there is a significant gap in the implementation of the SDGs in Indonesia, especially in areas with high poverty rates such as the city of Medan, North Sumatra. Data from the Central Statistics Agency (BPS) of Medan City shows that the poverty rate in this city will reach 8.42% in 2023, while the open unemployment rate is still at 7.6% (BPS Medan City, 2023). In addition, the economic gap measured by the Gini ratio index reached 0.386, indicating that there is an income distribution inequality that still needs to be overcome. In this context, sharia cooperatives emerge as potential economic entities to drive the achievement of the SDGs. Sharia cooperatives, which operate on the basis of Islamic economic principles, have characteristics that are in line with the sustainability values contained in the SDGs. Principles such as social justice, non-exploitation, risk sharing, and social responsibility in the Islamic economy align with the SDGs' goals, including poverty alleviation, decent work, reducing inequality, and promoting sustainable consumption and production (Asutay & Harningtyas, 2015).

Although the potential of sharia cooperatives in supporting the achievement of the SDGs has been recognized in several literature (Yusuf et al., 2018), there is still a knowledge gap regarding the extent of the actual contribution of sharia cooperatives to the SDGs, especially in a local context such as in the city of Medan. In addition, there is still a lack of comprehensive research that analyzes the priority contribution of sharia cooperatives to the SDG goals and the factors that affect the effectiveness of these contributions. According to research conducted by, sharia cooperatives have an important role in supporting community economic empowerment through productive financing for MSMEs, group-based business development, and other economic empowerment

programs. This aligns with the 8th goal of the SDGs, specifically decent work and economic growth, as well as the 10th goal, which aims to reduce gaps and increase opportunities for women in cooperatives and MSMEs, in line with the 5th goal. (Heriyadi & Amrizal, 2024)

In addition, sharia cooperatives also have the potential to support the achievement of the 1st goal of the SDGs, namely zero poverty, through poverty alleviation programs based on zakat, infaq, alms, and waqf (ZISWAF). According to the theory of wealth distribution in Islamic economics put forward by Mannan (1986), the ZISWAF is an important instrument in the redistribution of wealth from the rich to the poor, which can contribute to poverty alleviation and equitable distribution of welfare. (Soemitra, 2018) However, to optimize the role of sharia cooperatives in supporting the achievement of the SDGs in the city of Medan, the right strategies and policies are needed. According to the public policy theory put forward by Dunn (2017), effective policies must be based on comprehensive analysis of the situation, formulation of appropriate policy alternatives, practical implementation, and continuous monitoring and evaluation.

On February 21-28, 2025, the President of Indonesia emphasized the importance of establishing Village Cooperatives as an effort to increase food security. At a Limited Meeting at the State Palace on March 3, 2025, the President of the Republic of Indonesia announced the launch of 80,000 village cooperatives under the name of Merah Putih Village/Village Cooperatives will coincide with National Cooperative Day on July 12, 2025. This initiative aims to strengthen the village economy and improve community welfare through cooperatives including sharia-based cooperatives. In the context of developing sharia cooperative in the city of Medan, policies are needed to support the strengthening of sharia cooperative institutions, enhance human resource capacity, develop innovative products and services, and increase the community's sharia financial literacy.

Previous studies, such as those conducted by Rahman (2019) and Wulandari (2020), have examined the role of Islamic financial institutions in supporting the SDGs. However, the focus of the research is more on Islamic banking and has not specifically analyzed the role of Islamic cooperatives. Meanwhile, research by Nasution et al. (2021) has analyzed the performance of sharia cooperatives in the city of Medan, but has not linked it to its contribution to the achievement of the SDGs. Therefore, the purpose of this article is to analyze and identify the priority contribution of sharia cooperatives in the city of Medan to the goals in SDGs 2030 by developing a model of integration of sharia cooperatives with the SDGs to optimize the contribution of sharia cooperatives to the achievement of SDGs 2030 in the city of Medan. Thus, there is a need to conduct a more comprehensive analysis of scientific work on the role of sharia cooperatives in supporting the 2030 SDGs in the city of Medan.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Concept and Principles of Sharia Cooperatives

Sharia cooperatives are business entities consisting of people or legal entities that operate their activities based on sharia principles (Soemitra, 2017). Formally, sharia cooperatives in Indonesia are known as Sharia Savings and Loan and Financing Cooperatives (KSPPS) based on the Regulation of the Minister of Cooperatives and SMEs Number 16/Per/M.KUKM/IX/2015 concerning the Implementation of Sharia Savings and Loan and Financing Business Activities by Cooperatives. The basic principles of sharia cooperatives include tauhid (the oneness of Allah), akhlaq (morals and ethics), balance, benefit, universalism, and 'adl (justice) (Antonio, 2019). These principles are implemented in the prohibition of riba (interest), gharar (excessive uncertainty), and maysir (speculation), as well as the implementation of a profit-sharing and risk-sharing system (Ascarya, 2018). The operation of sharia cooperatives is carried out using muamalah contracts such as mudharabah (profit sharing), musyarakah (partnership), murabahah (buying and selling with margin), ijarah (rent), and qardh (welfare loans) (Triyuwono, 2018). These agreements reflect the values of justice, transparency, and cooperation that are characteristic of the Islamic economy. The unique characteristics of sharia cooperatives that distinguish them from conventional cooperatives lie in the existence of a Sharia Supervisory Board (DPS) which is tasked with supervising operational compliance with sharia principles, as well as the existence of a business surplus distribution mechanism that is not only distributed to members but also allocated for social funds such as zakat, infag, and shadagah (Ridwan, 2020).

2.2 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a global development agenda agreed by 193 member states of the United Nations (UN) in September 2015. The SDGs consist of 17 goals and 169 targets covering economic, social, and environmental aspects, which are targeted to be achieved by 2030 (UN, 2015). The seventeen SDGs goals include: (1) No poverty, (2) No hunger, (3) Healthy and prosperous life, (4) Quality education, (5) Gender equality, (6) Clean water and decent sanitation, (7) Clean and affordable energy, (8) Decent jobs and economic growth, (9) Industry, innovation, and infrastructure, (10) Reduced inequality, (11) Sustainable cities and settlements, (12) Responsible consumption and production, (13) Handling climate change, (14) Marine ecosystems, (15) Terrestrial ecosystems, (16) Peace, justice, and resilient institutions, and (17) Partnerships to achieve the goals (UN, 2015) as outlined in the SDGs below:



Figure 1. The 17 sustainable development goals

The SDGs have five basic principles that are often referred to as "5P", namely People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace, and Partnership (UN, 2015). These principles affirm that sustainable development must be oriented towards the well-being of people and the planet in a balanced manner. In Indonesia, the implementation of the SDGs is regulated in Presidential Regulation Number 59 of 2017 concerning the Implementation of the Achievement of Sustainable Development Goals. The regulation mandates the preparation of the National Action Plan (NAP) and Regional Action Plan (RAP) for the SDGs as guidelines for implementing the SDGs at the national and regional levels.

2.3 The Relationship of Sharia Cooperatives with the SDGs

Sharia cooperatives are closely related to the achievement of the SDGs because of the alignment between the Islamic economic principles that underlie the operations of sharia cooperatives and the sustainability values contained in the SDGs. Sharia cooperatives in Medan City play a strategic role in supporting the achievement of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially in four main goals, namely SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities). This role is inextricably linked to Islamic economic principles, which emphasize justice, sustainability, and community empowerment as the primary foundations of sustainable economic development.

a. In the context of poverty alleviation (SDG 1), sharia cooperatives in Medan have shown significant contributions through the provision of access to sharia-based microfinance. The financing model is applied using sharia contracts such as mudharabah (profit sharing) and murabahah (buying and selling) which allow low-income people to gain access to capital without being burdened by a burdensome interest system¹. Research conducted by the Medan City Government shows that mosque-based sharia cooperatives have a significant impact on community economic empowerment, by utilizing socio-religious networks to expand the reach of poverty alleviation programs². This model has proven to be effective because it integrates spiritual and economic aspects in one holistic system.

- b. In support of gender equality (SDG 5), sharia cooperatives in Medan have developed special programs designed to empower women in the economic sector. An empirical study on the Sharia Cooperative of Al-Ikhlas Mothers in Medan demonstrates that training and coaching programs carried out by sharia cooperatives have a significant effect on improving the ability and welfare of MSMEs managed by women⁴. The program not only provides access to financing, but also equips women with the management, marketing, and technology skills needed to grow their businesses.
- c. The contribution of sharia cooperatives to decent work and economic growth (SDG 8) is reflected in various programs developed to create jobs and increase the economic productivity of the community. Sharia cooperatives create job opportunities through the development of the MSME sector and sharia-based creative economy, which not only absorbs local labor but also develops the skills and capacity of the community⁵. Capacity building programs carried out by sharia cooperatives improve members' skills in various fields, ranging from financial management to the use of digital technology for businesses.
- d. In reducing the gap (SDG 10), sharia cooperatives in Medan implement a wealth redistribution mechanism through zakat, infaq, and alms instruments that are managed professionally and transparently. This mechanism serves as an effective instrument of wealth redistribution in reducing economic inequality in society. The principle of justice that is the basis of the operation of sharia cooperatives ensures that financial services are not discriminatory and accessible to all levels of society, regardless of socioeconomic status. (Aziz & Wicaksono, 2019).

In addition, empirical research by UNDP and the Islamic Development Bank (2019) shows that Islamic financial instruments, including those managed by Islamic cooperatives, can mobilize significant amounts of funds to support sustainable development financing. Thus, sharia cooperatives have great potential to contribute to the achievement of the SDGs.

2.4 Sharia Cooperative Integration Model with SDGs

A number of literature has proposed an integration model between Islamic financial institutions, including Islamic cooperatives, with the SDGs. One comprehensive model is the model proposed by UNDP and the Islamic Development Bank (2019) called "Islamic Finance for SDGs". The model identifies several areas of integration between Islamic finance and the SDGs, namely:

- a. Resource Mobilization, The use of Islamic financial instruments such as sukuk (sharia bonds), zakat, and waqf to mobilize funds for financing SDGs projects.
- b. Financing Allocation: Directing Islamic finance financing to sectors that support the achievement of the SDGs such as renewable energy, education, health, and infrastructure.

- c. Good Governance: The application of good governance principles in Islamic financial institutions to ensure transparency, accountability, and effectiveness in supporting the SDGs.
- d. Impact Measurement: Development of indicators and methods to measure the impact of Islamic financial institutions on the achievement of the SDGs.

Meanwhile, Mohamed et al. (2020) proposed the "Islamic Financial Inclusion for SDGs" model which emphasizes the role of Islamic financial institutions, including Islamic cooperatives, in increasing financial inclusion as a means to achieve the SDGs. This model focuses on the development of inclusive and affordable Islamic financial products and services for community groups that have not been served by the formal financial system. These models provide a conceptual framework for integrating sharia cooperatives with the SDGs agenda. However, the implementation of these models needs to be tailored to the local context and the specific characteristics of sharia cooperatives in a particular region.

3. Research Methods

This article uses a quantitative approach with an analytical descriptive method. The quantitative approach was chosen because this paper is suitable for systematically measuring and analyzing the contribution of sharia cooperatives to the achievement of the SDGs. This article was carried out in the city of Medan, North Sumatra province. The selection of Medan City as the location of the analysis was based on the consideration that Medan City is one of the important economic centers in Sumatra and has a significant number of sharia cooperatives. The research was carried out for six months, from January to June 2025.

The population in this article consists of all Sharia cooperatives registered with the Medan City Cooperatives and SMEs Office, totaling 12 cooperatives. The sampling technique used is purposive sampling with *purposive sampling* with (1) sharia cooperatives that have been operating for at least 3 years, (2) have assets of at least IDR 1 billion, and (3) have at least 100 active members. Based on these criteria, a sample of 12 sharia cooperatives was obtained. The respondents in this article consisted of three groups, namely: (1) sharia cooperative administrators (3 people per cooperative), (2) cooperative members (1 person per cooperative), and (3) related stakeholders (9 people) which included academics in the field of sharia economics and SDGs (3 people), regulators (3 people), and sharia economic practitioners (3 people). The total number of respondents in this study is 45 people. Although this sample is relatively small, the limited number of sharia-based cooperatives makes it suitable for analysis and generalization, meeting the quantitative analysis requirement of at least 30 samples. (Syahbudi, 78: 2024). Data analysis techniques with questionnaires compiled based on a comparison scale of 1-9 developed by Saaty (1990). The Analysis Method with *the Analytical Hierarchy Process*

(AHP) is used as the primary analysis tool to determine the priority of the contribution of sharia cooperatives to the SDGs goals

4. Results and Discussion

For quanitative research, this section is divided into two main subsections: Results and Discussion.

4.1. Results

4.1.1 Characteristics of Sharia Cooperatives in Medan City

The city of Medan as the capital of North Sumatra Province is one of the important economic centers in western Indonesia. According to data from the Medan City Cooperatives and SMEs Office (2023), there are 12 Sharia Savings and Loan and Financing Cooperatives (KSPPS) registered in Medan City. Sharia cooperatives in Medan City have total assets of around IDR 245 billion with more than 15,000 members. The development of sharia cooperatives in Medan City is inseparable from the demographic and socioeconomic context of the people of Medan City, which are predominantly Muslim. According to data from the Medan City BPS (2023), 59.68% of the population of Medan City is Muslim, so there is a large potential base for the development of sharia cooperatives.

A study conducted by Nasution et al. (2021) shows that sharia cooperatives in Medan City have a significant role in supporting the development of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs). The majority of financing distributed by sharia cooperatives in Medan City (65%) is intended for the MSME sector, with the dominant financing schemes being murabahah (60%), mudharabah (20%), musharakah (15%), and qardh (5%). However, sharia cooperatives in Medan City still face several challenges, including limited capital, suboptimal human resources, inadequate technological infrastructure, and a community's level of sharia financial literacy that still needs improvement (Siregar & Harahap, 2022). These challenges can affect the effectiveness of the contribution of sharia cooperatives to the achievement of the SDGs in the city of Medan.

Sharia cooperatives in Medan City are closely related to the achievement of the SDGs because of the alignment between the Islamic economic principles that underlie the operation of sharia cooperatives and the sustainability values contained in the SDGs. Some of these linkages include:

a. Poverty Alleviation (SDG 1): The principle of profit sharing and the prohibition of usury in sharia cooperatives encourages income equity and prevents exploitation of economically weak parties (Chapra, 2018). In addition, social instruments such as zakat, infaq, shadaqah, and waqf managed by sharia cooperatives contribute directly to poverty alleviation (Hassan & Ashraf, 2019).

- b. Gender Equality (SDG 5), sharia cooperatives in Medan have developed special programs designed to empower gender/women in the economic sector. The program not only provides access to financing, but also equips women with the management, marketing, and technology skills needed to grow their businesses. Sharia cooperatives also provide women-friendly financial products, including financing for household businesses and high-flexibility savings schemes that accommodate women's dual roles as housewives and entrepreneurs.
- c. Economic Growth and Decent Work (SDG 8): Sharia cooperatives encourage real economic activities through profit-sharing-based productive financing such as mudharabah and musharakah (Ismail et al., 2021). This creates jobs and supports inclusive economic growth.
- d. Gap Reduction (SDG 10): The principles of economic justice in Islam implemented in the operations of sharia cooperatives, such as the prohibition of monopolistic practices and hoarding, support efforts to reduce economic inequality (Askari et al., 2018).

In addition, Islamic financial instruments, including those managed by sharia cooperatives, can mobilize significant amounts of funds to support sustainable development financing. Thus, sharia cooperatives have great potential to contribute to the achievement of the SDGs. From the 12 sharia cooperatives that are the research sample, an overview of the characteristics of sharia cooperatives in the city of Medan is obtained as presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Characteristics of Sharia Cooperatives in Medan City

Characteristic	Sum	Percentage
Operating Age		
3-5 years	3	25%
6-10 years	5	41,67%
> 10 years	4	33,33%
Number of Assets		
IDR 1-5 billion	5	41,67%
IDR 5-10 billion	4	33,33%
> IDR 10 billion	3	25%
Number of Members		
100-500 people	6	50%
501-1000 people	4	33,33%
> 1000 people	2	16,67%
Dominant Financing Scheme		
Murabahah	7	58,33%
Mudharabah	2	16,67%
Meditation	2	16,67%
Qardh	1	8,33%
Dominant Financing Sector		
Trade	6	50%

Service	3	25%
Agriculture	2	16,67%
Household Industry	1	8,33%

Source: Primary data processed, 2025

Based on Table 1, the majority of sharia cooperatives in Medan City (41.67%) have been operating for 6-10 years, with the number of dominant assets between IDR 1-5 billion (41.67%), and the number of members between 100-500 people (50%). The most widely used financing scheme is murabahah (58.33%), and the dominant financing sector is trade (50%). The results of the AHP analysis to determine the priority of the contribution of sharia cooperatives to the goals in the SDGs are presented in the table below:

Table 2. Comparison of Key Criteria (SDGs)

Criterion	SDG 1	SDG 5	SDG 8	SDG 10
SDG 1	1	5	2	3
SDG 5	1/5	1	1/4	1/3
SDG 8	1/2	4	1	2
SDG 10	1/3	3	1/2	1

Source: Data processed with AHP, 2025

Priority Weight Calculation:

Table 3. Matrix Normalization:

Criterion	SDG 1	SDG 5	SDG 8	SDG 10	Sum	Priority
SDG 1	0.488	0.385	0.533	0.462	1.868	0.467
SDG 5	0.098	0.077	0.067	0.051	0.293	0.073
SDG 8	0.244	0.308	0.267	0.308	1.127	0.282
SDG 10	0.163	0.231	0.133	0.154	0.681	0.170

Consistency Ratio (CR): 0.031 < 0.10 ✓ (Consistent)

Source: Data processed with AHP, 2025

Table 4. Comparison of SDG 1 Sub-Criteria

Sub-Criteria	S1.1	S1.2	S1.3	S1.4	Priority
Q1.1: (Sharia Microfinance)	1	3	2	4	0.467
S1.2: (ZIS Program)	1/3	1	1/2	2	0.166
S1.3: (Skills Training)	1/2	2	1	3	0.278
S1.4: (Access Basic Services)	1/4	1/2	1/3	1	0.089
CR	0.024 < 0.10				(Consistent)

Source: Data processed with AHP, 2025

Table 5. Comparison of SDG 5 Sub-Criteria

Sub-Criteria		S5.1	S5.2	S5.3	S5.4	Priority
Q5.1: (Women's Special Financing)	1		2	3	4	0.467

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S5.2: (Women's Economic	1/2	1	2	3	0.278
Empowerment)					
S5.3 : (Sharia Finance Education)	1/3	1/2	1	2	0.166
S5.4 : (Supporting Facilities)	1/4	1/3	1/2	1	0.089
CR	0.021 < 0.10				(Consistent)

Source: Data processed with AHP, 2025

Table 6. Comparison of SDG 8 Sub-Criteria

Sub-Criteria	S8.1	S8.2	S8.3	S8.4	
S8.1: (Job Creation)	1	2	3	2	0.400
S8.2: (Increased Productivity)	1/2	1	2	1	0.240
S8.3: (Formalization of the Informal	1/3	1/2	1	1/2	0.120
Sector)					
S8.4: (Entrepreneurship Development)	1/2	1	2	1	0.240
CR	0.018 < 0.10				(Consistent)

Source: Data processed with AHP, 2025

Table 7. Comparison of SDG 10 Sub-Criteria

Sub-Criteria	S10.1	S10.2	S10.3	S10.4	Priority
S10.1: (Financial Inclusion)	1	3	2	4	0.467
Q10.2: (Fair Profit Sharing Scheme)	1/3	1	1/2	2	0.166
S10.3: (Undiscriminated Access)	1/2	2	1	3	0.278
S10.4: (CSR Programme)	1/4	1/2	1/3	1	0.089
CR	0.024 < 0.10				(Consistent)

Source: Data processed with AHP, 2025

Table 8. Alternatives to Sub-Criteria

Sub-Criteria	A1 (Expansion)	A2	A3 (Capacity)	A4 (Partnership)
		(Innovation)		
S1.1	0.277	0.488	0.162	0.073
S1.2	0.400	0.240	0.240	0.120
S1.3	0.162	0.277	0.488	0.073
S1.4	0.488	0.162	0.277	0.073
S5.1	0.240	0.400	0.240	0.120
S5.2	0.162	0.277	0.488	0.073
S5.3	0.277	0.162	0.488	0.073
S5.4	0.400	0.240	0.240	0.120
S8.1	0.162	0.277	0.488	0.073
S8.2	0.277	0.488	0.162	0.073
S8.3	0.240	0.400	0.240	0.120
S8.4	0.162	0.277	0.488	0.073
S10.1	0.488	0.162	0.277	0.073

S10.2	0.277	0.488	0.162	0.073
S10.3	0.400	0.240	0.240	0.120
S10.4	0.162	0.277	0.488	0.073

Source: Data processed with AHP, 2025

Global Weight Calculation

Table 9. Global Weight Sub-Criteria:

Sub-	Description	Local	Weighting	Global
Criteria	-	Weights	Criteria	Weight
S1.1	Shariah Microfinance	0.467	0.467	0.218
S1.2	Program ZIS	0.166	0.467	0.078
S1.3	Skills Training	0.278	0.467	0.130
S1.4	Access Basic Services	0.089	0.467	0.042
S5.1	Women's Special Financing	0.467	0.073	0.034
S5.2	Women's Empowerment	0.278	0.073	0.020
S5.3	Women's Financial Education	0.166	0.073	0.012
S5.4	Supporting Facilities	0.089	0.073	0.007
S8.1	Job Creation	0.400	0.282	0.113
S8.2	Increased Productivity	0.240	0.282	0.068
S8.3	Formalization of the Informal Sector	0.120	0.282	0.034
S8.4	Entrepreneurship Development	0.240	0.282	0.068
S10.1	Financial Inclusion	0.467	0.170	0.079
S10.2	Fair Profit Sharing Scheme	0.166	0.170	0.028
S10.3	Non-Discriminatory Access	0.278	0.170	0.047
S10.4	Program CSR	0.089	0.170	0.015

Source: Data processed with AHP, 2025

Alternative Priority Ranking Strategy

Final Score Calculation:

- a. A1 (Network Expansion and Access Strategy) = $(0.277 \times 0.218) + (0.400 \times 0.078) + ... + (0.162 \times 0.015) = 0.289$
- b. **A2 (Product and Service Innovation Strategy)** = $(0.488 \times 0.218) + (0.240 \times 0.078) + ... + (0.277 \times 0.015) =$ **0.328**
- c. **A3 (Institutional Capacity Building Strategy)** = $(0.162\times0.218) + (0.240\times0.078) + ... + (0.488\times0.015) =$ **0.298**
- d. **A4 (Partnership and Collaboration Strategy)** = $(0.073 \times 0.218) + (0.120 \times 0.078) + ... + (0.073 \times 0.015) =$ **0.085**

Based on the calculation of the priority score from the AHP of the alternative score with the global weight above, it can be concluded that the priority

Table 10. The strategy is as follows:

1	A2: Product and Service Innovation	0.328	32.8%	
2	A3: Institutional Capacity Building	0.298	29.8%	
3	A1: Network and Access Expansion	0.289	28.9%	
4	A4: Partnerships and Collaborations	0.085	8.5%	

Source: Data processed, 2025

Based on the results of the AHP analysis and findings from interviews with respondents, a model of integration of sharia cooperatives with the SDGs was developed as presented in Figure 1.

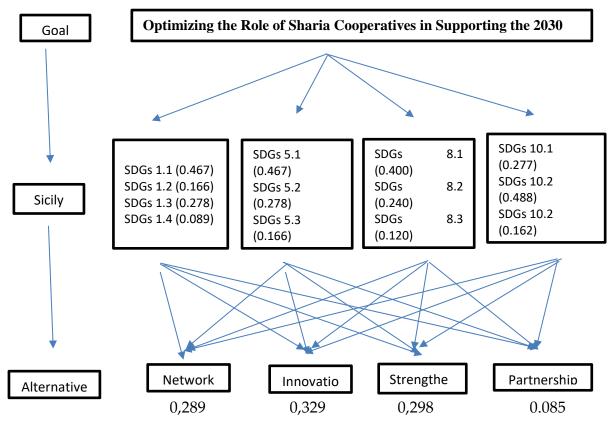


Figure 2. Sharia Cooperative Integration Model with SDGs

Description of the image above shows that the integration model shows the relationship between the role of sharia cooperatives in the city of Medan and the goals of SDGs 1, SDGs 5, SDGs 8 and SDGs 10 based on AHP's analysis that the priority strategies in the development of sharia cooperatives are:

a. The first priority is product and service innovation, which includes the development of innovative Islamic financial products such as micro sukuk, micro-sharia insurance, and sharia digital platforms. This innovation responds to the specific needs of the diverse people of Medan and contributes directly to the achievement of the four SDGs that are the focus, namely through the provision of wider access to financing, women-friendly products, MSME facilitation, and inclusive services.

- b. The second priority is to strengthen institutional capacity, which includes improving governance, risk management systems, and human resource capacity of sharia cooperatives. Certification and ongoing training programs for cooperative managers are key in ensuring professionalism and operational sustainability. Strong institutions are an important prerequisite to ensure the sustainability of empowerment programs and the effectiveness of achieving SDGs targets.
- c. The third priority is network expansion and access, which is implemented through the expansion of sharia cooperative branches, partnerships with other financial institutions, and the use of technology to reach remote areas. The expansion of this network directly increases the reach of poverty alleviation and economic empowerment programs, thereby supporting the achievement of SDG 1 and SDG 10 with a broader geographical base.
- d. The fourth priority is partnerships and collaborations, which involve strategic collaboration with local governments, international institutions, universities, and civil society organizations to optimize program impact. Research on sharia corporate governance and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) as an instrument for achieving the ASEAN 2025 vision shows that strategic partnerships can strengthen the sustainable development ecosystem and accelerate the achievement of SDGs targets. One of the respondents, a practitioner of sharia economics, stated:

"This integration model is very relevant to the context of the city of Medan which is trying to align economic development with the principles of the SDGs. Sharia cooperatives, with their unique characteristics, can be a bridge between Islamic values embraced by the majority of the population in the city of Medan and the sustainable development agenda."

These findings support the view of Aziz & Wicaksono (2019) that the principles of ta'awun (cooperation) and ukhuwah (brotherhood) in Islamic economics applied in sharia cooperatives encourage collaboration between various stakeholders to achieve sustainable development.

4.1 Discussion

Article 33 of the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia emphasizes that the Indonesian economy is structured on joint efforts based on the principle of kinship. The President of the Republic of Indonesia strongly supports all efforts to mobilize cooperatives, including sharia cooperatives throughout Indonesia in general and the city of Medan in particular, reflecting the government's commitment to strengthening the people's economy. In 2025, the establishment of conventional and sharia Red and White Cooperatives will be driven by the need to improve the economic welfare of the community through a people's economic approach based on the principles of mutual cooperation, kinship, and mutual assistance in supporting the 2030 SDGs.

4.2.1 Contribution of Sharia Cooperatives to Poverty and Hunger Alleviation (SDG 1)

Sharia cooperatives are non-bank Islamic financial institutions that still contribute to the community, especially in sub-districts/villages, especially in Medan. Interesting issues related to the formation of red and white cooperatives in 2025 are currently starting to be established and opportunities in the form of red and white cooperatives and sharia cooperatives that have been formed previously. This is in line with a study conducted by Hassan & Ashraf (2022) which identified that including sharia cooperatives, have a significant role in poverty alleviation through sharia microfinance and ZISWAF fund management. The results of the analysis show that sharia cooperatives in Medan City contribute to poverty alleviation through several mechanisms:

- a. Productive Financing: Sharia cooperatives distribute profit-sharing-based financing (mudharabah and musyarakah) to members to develop micro and small businesses. Data shows that an average of 65% of the total financing of sharia cooperatives in Medan City is channeled to productive activities.
- b. Social Programs: Sharia cooperatives manage ZISWAF funds for social programs such as business capital assistance for the poor, education assistance, and health assistance. As many as 83.33% of sharia cooperatives in the article sample have social programs financed from ZISWAF funds.
- c. Qardh Al-Hasan Agreement: Sharia cooperatives provide charitable loans (qardh alhasan) to members in need without profit margin. Data shows that around 5-10% of the total financing of sharia cooperatives in Medan City is distributed in the form of *qardh* al-hasan.

One of the respondents, a sharia cooperative administrator with assets of more than Rp 10 billion, stated:

"We set aside 2.5% of the SHU [Remaining Business Results] for social programs, such as business capital assistance for the poor around cooperatives. In addition, we also distribute zakat from members and cooperatives to help the poor, especially for food and education needs."

These findings confirm the argument of Chapra (2018) that Islamic economic principles applied in sharia cooperatives, such as the prohibition of usury and the implementation of profit-sharing mechanisms, encourage income equity and prevent exploitation of economically weak parties.

4.2.2 Contribution of Sharia Cooperatives to Economic Growth and Decent Work (SDG

The results of the AHP analysis show that the contribution of sharia cooperatives to economic growth and decent work (SDG 8). This is in line with research by Ismail et al. (2021) which found that productive financing distributed by Islamic financial institutions contributes positively to economic growth and job creation. Based on data from sharia cooperatives that were the research sample, on average around 65% of financing was channeled to productive activities, especially in the trade (50%), services (25%), agriculture (16.67%), and household industry (8.33%) sectors. The financing has helped create or maintain around 3,500 jobs in the city of Medan.

In addition, sharia cooperatives also contribute to economic growth through increasing financial inclusion. Data shows that 60% of sharia cooperative members in Medan City previously did not have access to formal financial institutions. By joining as members of sharia cooperatives, they gain access to financial services in accordance with sharia principles. One of the respondents, a member of a sharia cooperative that has succeeded in developing a traditional culinary business, stated:

"Thanks to the musharakah financing from the cooperative, I was able to develop a traditional culinary business and now employ 5 neighbors. I feel comfortable with the profitsharing scheme because it is not burdensome when the business is sluggish and fairer when the business is growing."

These findings strengthen the argument of Ascarya (2018) that profit-sharing-based financing in Islamic finance encourages real economic activity more than interest-based financing.

4.2.2 The Contribution of Sharia Cooperatives to Gap Reduction (SDG 10)

The results of the AHP analysis show that the contribution of sharia cooperatives to the reduction of inequality (SDG 10). This is in line with the research of Askari et al. (2018) who stated that the principle of economic justice in Islam supports efforts to reduce economic inequality. Based on interviews with respondents, sharia cooperatives in Medan City contribute to reducing inequality through several mechanisms:

- a. Affordable Margin/Profit Sharing Policy: Islamic cooperatives set profit margins or profit sharing ratios that are more affordable compared to other formal financial institutions. Data shows that the average margin of murabahah financing in sharia cooperatives in Medan City is 12-15% per year, lower than consumptive loans from commercial banks which reach 16-24% per year.
- b. Fair Distribution of SHU: Islamic cooperatives distribute the Remaining Revenue of Business (SHU) fairly to members based on contributions and transactions, not just based on paid-up capital. This encourages active member participation and equitable profit sharing.

4.2.3 Development of the Role of Sharia Cooperatives with SDGs

The model of integration of sharia cooperatives with the SDGs developed in this article shows that the operational principles of sharia cooperatives are in harmony with the sustainability values in the SDGs. The model of the development of sharia cooperatives in Medan has been systematically prepared with four main priorities that are interrelated and support the achievement of the SDGs with the main priority being product and service innovation, which includes the development of sharia financial

products that are innovative such as micro sukuk, micro sharia insurance, and sharia digital platforms. This innovation responds to the specific needs of the diverse people of Medan and contributes directly to the achievement of the four SDGs that are the focus, namely through the provision of wider access to financing, women-friendly products, MSME facilitation, and inclusive services.

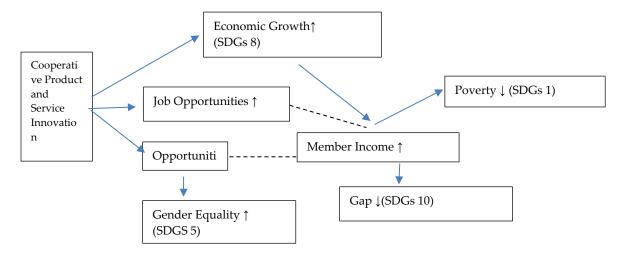


Figure 3. The role of Sharia Cooperatives in supporting the SDGs

Based on the image above, that in the long term, the main priority strategic impact in the development of sharia cooperatives is the Innovation of Sharia Cooperative Products and Services. Product and Service Innovation, which includes the development of innovative Islamic financial products such as Sharia Digital Platforms. This innovation responds to the specific needs of the diverse people of Medan and contributes directly to the achievement of the four SDGs that are the focus, namely through the provision of wider access to financing, women's (gender-friendly) products, MSME facilitation, and inclusive services so that this has an impact on increasing economic growth, decreasing the gap, can increase the income of sharia cooperatives and MSMEs fostered by sharia cooperatives so that it has an impact on reducing the poverty and inequality in the macro future in order to increase the achievement of economic growth until 2030.

Recommendations The implications of this article have a theoretical impact on the model analysis and development of sharia cooperatives in the future and can practically develop innovations and services of sharia cooperatives as a strategic instrument in achieving the 2030 SDGs in the City of Medan, recommending:

a. Developing various product and service innovations, which include the development of innovative Islamic financial products such as Islamic digital platforms. This innovation responds to the specific needs of the diverse people of Medan and contributes directly to the achievement of the four SDGs that are the focus, namely through the provision of wider access to financing, women's (gender-friendly) products, MSME facilitation, and inclusive services so that this has an impact on increasing economic growth, decreasing the gap, can increase the income of sharia

- cooperatives and MSMEs fostered by sharia cooperatives so that it has an impact on reducing the poverty and inequality in the macro future in order to increase the achievement of economic growth until 2030.
- b. Strengthening institutional capacity, which includes improving the *governance* of human resources of sharia cooperatives. Certification and ongoing training programs for cooperative managers are key in ensuring professionalism and operational sustainability. Strong institutions are an important prerequisite to ensure the sustainability of empowerment programs and the effectiveness of achieving the 2030 SDGs targets.
- c. Increasing the expansion of sharia cooperative networks and access, which is implemented through the expansion of sharia cooperative branches, partnerships with other financial institutions, and the use of technology to reach remote areas. The expansion of this network directly increases the reach of poverty alleviation and economic empowerment programs, thereby supporting the achievement of SDG 1 and SDG 10 with a broader geographical base, and
- d. Enhancing partnerships and collaborations, which involve strategic collaboration with local governments, international institutions, universities, and civil society organizations to optimize the impact of strategic programs can strengthen the sustainable development ecosystem and accelerate the achievement of the 2030 SDGs targets.

5. Conclusions

Based on the comprehensive analysis that has been carried out, it can be concluded that sharia cooperatives in Medan City play a strategic and significant role in supporting the achievement of the 2030 SDGs, especially in four main goals, namely poverty alleviation, gender equality, decent work and economic growth, and reducing disparities. The integration of sharia principles in cooperative operations not only creates a just economic system but also contributes significantly to sustainable development with a holistic and sustainable approach. The development model that has been compiled with four main priorities of product and service innovation, institutional capacity building, network and access expansion, and partnerships and collaboration has proven to be a systematic and effective approach. Continuous innovation in products and services is a key factor in increasing the relevance and impact of sharia cooperatives to the achievement of the SDGs, while institutional strengthening ensures sustainability and operational professionalism. The limitation of this article is that it only examines the priorities of SDGs 1, SDGs 5, SDGs 8 and SDGs 10 while the overall SDGs are 17, which means that there are many more that have not been researched, so it is suggested that it can be further researched more fully by researching the 17 existing SDGs so that the goals of the SDGs can be seen clearly and completely.

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