



Policy Analysis of Local Government Strategies for Stunting Reduction in South Bolaang Mongondow Regency

Zulkarnain Kamaru¹, Marwan Djafar², Apriyanto Nusa³

¹²³Master of Law Program, Ichsan University of Gorontalo, Ahmad Najamuddin Street No. 17, Gorontalo City, Gorontalo, Indonesia.

Article Info	ABSTRACT
<p>Keywords: Local Government Policy, Stunting Prevention, Policy Implementation, Regional Governance, South Bolaang Mongondow Regency</p>	<p><i>Stunting remains a major public health and development challenge in Indonesia, requiring integrated and sustainable policy interventions at both national and local levels. This study analyzes the implementation of local government policies in addressing stunting in South Bolaang Mongondow Regency, with a particular focus on identifying factors that hinder effective policy execution. The research is grounded in an empirical legal approach combined with a sociological juridical perspective, examining how normative legal frameworks are applied in social reality. Data were collected through field observations, in-depth interviews with key stakeholders involved in the Stunting Reduction Acceleration Team at the regency, sub-district, and village levels, as well as documentation studies of relevant regulations and policy instruments. The findings reveal that although the local government has established regulatory and institutional frameworks aligned with national stunting reduction policies, policy implementation has not been fully optimal. Several inhibiting factors were identified, including limited policy communication and understanding at the village level, inadequate human and financial resources, varying levels of commitment among policy implementers, weak inter-sectoral coordination, socio-cultural perceptions within the community, and deficiencies in data management and utilization. These constraints contribute to fragmented interventions and reduce the effectiveness of policy convergence efforts. The study concludes that the success of stunting reduction policies at the local level is not solely determined by regulatory completeness, but also by governance quality, institutional capacity, and community participation. This research contributes to the development of empirical legal studies by providing an integrated analysis of policy implementation challenges and offers insights for strengthening local governance in accelerating stunting reduction.</i></p>
<p>This is an open access article under the CC BY-NC license</p> 	<p>Corresponding Author: Zulkarnain Kamaru Ichsan University of Gorontalo Ahmad Najamuddin Street No. 17, Gorontalo City zulkarnainkamaru9@gmail.com</p>

INTRODUCTION

Stunting is one of the major public health problems that remains a serious challenge for many developing countries, including Indonesia. Stunting is defined as a condition of impaired growth and development in children resulting from chronic malnutrition and recurrent infections, characterized by a child's length or height being below the standard for

their age. This condition is measured using the Height-for-Age (HFA) indicator based on the WHO Child Growth Standards, with a child classified as stunted when the HFA z-score is below -2 standard deviations.

The problem of stunting is not limited to children's physical health but also has far-reaching implications for the quality of human resources in the future. Children who experience stunting are at a higher risk of delayed cognitive development, reduced learning capacity, and decreased productivity in adulthood. Numerous studies indicate that adults with a history of stunting tend to be less productive in the workplace, earn lower incomes, and contribute to widening social and economic disparities. Moreover, stunting is estimated to reduce up to 10% of an individual's lifetime earnings and is recognized as one of the key factors contributing to intergenerational poverty. In the global context, Indonesia was recorded as having the fifth highest prevalence of stunting in the world in 2018. This condition indicates that stunting is a structural problem that cannot be addressed solely through health interventions, but rather requires a comprehensive approach encompassing social, economic, cultural, as well as legal and public policy dimensions (Basuki and Si 2019).

As a state governed by the rule of law, Indonesia has a constitutional obligation to guarantee the fulfillment of human rights for all citizens, including the right to health and the right of children to grow and develop optimally. The persistence of stunting as a long-term problem reflects ongoing challenges in fulfilling these obligations. Consequently, stunting reduction has become one of the national priority agendas, consistently pursued by both the central and regional governments (Maulana et al. 2024).

The Indonesian government has designated stunting reduction as a key component of the National Medium-Term Development Plan (RPJMN) 2020–2024, with the vision of achieving "a Prosperous, Just, and Sustainable Upper-Middle-Income Indonesia" (Hafidz 2022). These efforts were further strengthened through the issuance of Presidential Regulation Number 72 of 2021 on the Acceleration of Stunting Reduction, which set a target of reducing the national stunting prevalence to 14% by (Muharram, Cholifah, and Utami 2025). However, this target has not been fully achieved. According to the 2024 Indonesian Nutritional Status Survey (SSGI), the national stunting prevalence remains at 19.8% (Muhawarman 2025). This situation highlights a gap between policy targets and the realities of implementation on the ground, particularly at the regional level, which serves as the frontline of policy execution.

Stunting reduction efforts in Indonesia are supported by a robust legal framework at both the national and regional levels. In addition to the National Medium-Term Development Plan (RPJMN) and Presidential Regulation Number 72 of 2021, regional governments are encouraged to formulate derivative regulations to ensure that the acceleration of stunting reduction is implemented in an integrated and sustainable manner. (Informasi et al. 2023).

In South Bolaang Mongondow Regency, the commitment of the local government to addressing stunting is manifested through the issuance of Regent Regulation Number 96 of 2022 on the Acceleration of Stunting Reduction, further strengthened by South Bolaang Mongondow Regency Regional Regulation Number 9 of 2024 concerning the Implementation of the Acceleration of Stunting Reduction. These regulations govern the mechanisms for situation analysis, cross-sectoral coordination, and the implementation of

both specific and sensitive interventions in a holistic and integrated manner(Djenaan et al. 2025).

Article 10 paragraph (1) of the Regional Regulation stipulates that the implementation of the situation analysis for stunting reduction programs is conducted through three stages: planning the objectives of the analysis, reviewing the results of previous analyses, and carrying out the situation analysis. This provision is intended to ensure that policies are data-driven, well-targeted, and capable of identifying service gaps as well as the need to strengthen coordination among regional government agencies down to the village level.

At the regional level, North Sulawesi Province ranked 21st out of 34 provinces in 2022, with a stunting prevalence rate of 20.5%. South Bolaang Mongondow Regency is one of the areas contributing to this figure. Despite the implementation of various policies and interventions, the stunting phenomenon in this region demonstrates fluctuating dynamics. Based on data from the electronic Community-Based Nutrition Recording and Reporting System (e-PPGBM), the prevalence of stunting in South Bolaang Mongondow Regency declined from 14.78% in 2020 to 1.65% in August 2025. However, when examined longitudinally, the prevalence rate experienced significant increases in certain years, particularly in 2021 and 2023. In addition, rising stunting cases are still observed in several villages, such as West Salongo Village and Tolondadu II Village, indicating disparities in outcomes across different localities(Selatan 2024).

The author's preliminary observations, based on interviews with the Head of the Public Health Division of the South Bolaang Mongondow Regency Health Office, reveal that several challenges persist in policy implementation. These include limited budget allocation, insufficient human resources, inaccurate data, inadequate basic infrastructure, and weak systems of evaluation and supervision.

The study conducted by Sabarisman and Sulubere (2023) examines the role of facilitation within the *Program Keluarga Harapan* (PKH) and the *Program Bantuan Pangan Non-Tunai* (BPNT) in addressing stunting through a case study in North Bolaang Mongondow Regency. This research employed a descriptive qualitative approach, with data collected through in-depth interviews, observations, and documentation studies involving social facilitators, beneficiary families, and relevant stakeholders. The findings indicate that facilitation under the PKH and BPNT programs contributes positively to stunting prevention and reduction efforts, particularly by improving poor families' access to healthcare services, enhancing child nutrition fulfillment, and increasing parental awareness of the importance of appropriate caregiving practices and balanced nutritional intake. Nevertheless, the study also identified several challenges, including limited facilitator capacity, insufficient understanding among some beneficiary families, and suboptimal cross-sectoral synergy. This study is relevant as a conceptual reference for understanding the role of social assistance-based interventions and facilitation mechanisms. However, it is limited in its geographical scope and does not specifically link program effectiveness to stunting dynamics based on electronic recording systems such as the *electronic Community-Based Nutrition Recording and Reporting System* (e-PPGBM), thereby leaving room for further research(Sabarisman et al. 2023).

This gap in the existing literature indicates the presence of a significant research gap that needs to be addressed, particularly in examining the effectiveness of regional policies from the perspectives of law, governance, and the fulfillment of children's right to health.

Based on the foregoing background, this study aims to:

1. Analyze the policies of the Regional Government of South Bolaang Mongondow Regency in addressing stunting.
2. Identify the inhibiting factors in the implementation of stunting prevention policies in South Bolaang Mongondow Regency.

METHODS

This study focuses on analyzing the policies of the Regional Government in addressing stunting in South Bolaang Mongondow Regency, which is administratively located at the Panango Government Complex, Trans-Sulawesi Southern Route Road, Tabilaa Village, Bolaang Uki District (Ilham 2025). The object of the research is directed at regional public policies related to the acceleration of stunting reduction and their implementation practices at the regency, district, and village levels. The research employs an empirical approach, also known as a sociological juridical approach, which examines law not merely as written norms but also as a social phenomenon that lives and operates within society. This approach is used to connect applicable legal norms—particularly Presidential Regulation Number 72 of 2021 and South Bolaang Mongondow Regency Regional Regulation Number 9 of 2024—with empirical facts regarding the implementation of stunting prevention policies in practice (Saharuddin et al. 2022).

The type of research conducted is empirical legal research (Fadhilah 2025), which analyzes how law functions in social reality by emphasizing the behavior of legal actors and institutions involved in policy implementation. This study adopts both a conceptual approach and a statutory approach as analytical foundations, as legal research cannot be separated from prevailing legal concepts and norms. The research location is set in South Bolaang Mongondow Regency and involves the Stunting Reduction Acceleration Team (*Tim Percepatan Penurunan Stunting*—TPPS) at the regency, district, and village levels.

The data used consist of primary and secondary data. Primary data were obtained through observation and interviews with policy stakeholders (Nasadi and Akdaji 2025), particularly TPPS members directly involved in the planning and implementation of stunting-related policies. Secondary data were collected through literature review and documentation studies, including laws and regulations, regional policy documents, books, academic journals, and relevant previous research findings.

The determination of the population and sample in this study employs a non-random sampling technique, considering that respondents were selected based on their competence, involvement, and relevance to the research object. The research sample consists of the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary, and sector coordinators within the TPPS structure of South Bolaang Mongondow Regency.

Data collection techniques include direct observation to examine policy implementation in the field, in-depth interviews to obtain comprehensive information from

informants, and documentation studies of policy archives and official documents. Data analysis was conducted using descriptive qualitative methods, involving stages of data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing or verification. Through these stages, the collected data were systematically organized to produce a comprehensive depiction of the effectiveness of stunting prevention policies and the inhibiting factors affecting their implementation in South Bolaang Mongondow Regency.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

National Policies for Stunting Reduction in Indonesia

Growth impairment resulting from chronic malnutrition and recurrent infections, measured by the Height-for-Age (HFA) indicator, has been designated by the Government of Indonesia as a priority issue in human development. Its impacts are not limited to short-term health consequences—such as increased morbidity and mortality—but also extend to economic, educational, and social dimensions. Children affected by stunting are at higher risk of reduced cognitive capacity, lower labor productivity in adulthood, and perpetuating intergenerational cycles of poverty (Victora et al. 2014). Accordingly, stunting reduction is positioned not merely as a health service intervention but as a cross-sectoral agenda requiring coordinated policies at both the national and regional levels. The national strategy adopted since the late 2010s has placed stunting prevalence reduction as one of the key indicators for achieving improvements in human resource quality within the 2020–2024 National Medium-Term Development Plan (RPJMN).

In broad terms, the development of stunting prevention policies in Indonesia can be understood through several stages. In the early phase, the recognition of the problem and basic nutrition intervention programs were predominantly situated within the health sector, including immunization programs, the strengthening of maternal and child health services, the promotion of exclusive breastfeeding, and micronutrient supplementation. However, toward the late 2010s, the policy approach shifted toward a cross-sectoral convergence strategy (Deasy Arieffiani 2024).

This paradigm shift culminated in the launch of national strategic policy documents (the National Strategy for the Acceleration of Stunting Reduction) and the strengthening of the legal framework through a Presidential Regulation that governs inter-ministerial and inter-agency coordination mechanisms, indicator targets, and an implementation framework aligned with the National Medium-Term Development Plan (RPJMN). This Presidential Regulation serves as the primary institutional and technical legal umbrella for the implementation of stunting reduction acceleration across all levels of government.

The 2020–2024 RPJMN places the reduction of stunting prevalence as a measurable priority target, with a nationally defined prevalence rate to be achieved by the end of the RPJMN period. This policy affirms that stunting interventions are inherently multisectoral, involving sectors such as health, food security, education, sanitation and clean water, development planning, women's empowerment, social protection, and regional governments as the main implementers at the local level. The RPJMN functions as the national policy framework that guides budget planning and programmatic alignment across

ministries and agencies, thereby positioning stunting reduction not merely as a single health-sector program but as a central development priority.

Table 1. National Regulations in the Policy Framework for the Acceleration of Stunting Reduction in Indonesia.

No	Type of Regulation	Number and Year	Main Substance of Regulation	Role in Stunting Reduction Policy	Issuing Institution
1	Presidential Regulation	Presidential Regulation No. 72 of 2021 on the Acceleration of Stunting Reduction	Regulates the national strategy for accelerating stunting reduction, the institutional structure of the National and Regional Stunting Reduction Acceleration Teams (TPPS), the division of tasks among ministries/agencies, national targets, specific and sensitive interventions, as well as monitoring and reporting mechanisms	Serves as the primary legal umbrella and formal foundation for the cross-sectoral convergence strategy in stunting reduction in Indonesia	President of the Republic of Indonesia (BPK RI Document)
2	National Development Planning Document	National Medium-Term Development Plan (RPJMN) 2020–2024	Establishes stunting reduction as a priority in national human resource development and provides the basis for setting targets, indicators, and cross-ministerial and regional budget allocations	Functions as the national policy direction and reference for planning and budgeting stunting reduction programs at both central and regional levels	Ministry of National Development Planning (Bappenas)
3	Law	Law No. 36 of 2009 on Health	Regulates the right to health, the state's obligation to provide health services, and promotive and preventive efforts to improve public health status	Provides the juridical basis for fulfilling maternal and child health rights as part of stunting prevention efforts	House of Representatives (DPR RI) and President of the Republic of Indonesia (BPK RI Document)

4	Law	Law No. 35 of 2014 on Child Protection	Affirms children's rights to survival, growth and development, protection from discrimination, and the fulfillment of nutrition and health needs	Serves as the legal foundation for protecting children's rights in stunting reduction policies as a human rights issue	House of Representatives (DPR RI) and President of the Republic of Indonesia (BPK RI Document)
5	Health Technical Guideline	National Clinical Practice Guidelines (PNPK) for Stunting Management, 2022	Provides clinical service standards for early detection, management, referral, and follow-up of stunting cases in children	Serves as a technical reference for health workers in primary and referral health services for stunting management	Ministry of Health of the Republic of Indonesia
6	Minister of Home Affairs Regulation	Minister of Home Affairs Regulations related to the Acceleration of Stunting Reduction (e.g., regulations on integrating stunting reduction into regional planning and budgeting)	Regulates the integration of stunting reduction programs into regional planning and budgeting documents (RPJMD, RKPD, APBD) and strengthens coordination among regional government agencies	Ensures active involvement of regional governments and policy synchronization between central and regional levels in stunting reduction efforts	Ministry of Home Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia

Analysis of Local Government Policies in Addressing Stunting in South Bolaang Mongondow Regency

Stunting reduction constitutes a strategic issue that requires the active involvement of local governments as the primary implementers of public policy at the local level. Within Indonesia's governmental system, which is founded on the principle of decentralization, local governments are granted broad authority to regulate and manage governmental affairs, including health services and the fulfillment of children's rights (Erlyn et al. 2021). Consequently, the success of stunting reduction policies is highly dependent on the quality of policy formulation, implementation, and evaluation at the regional level. South Bolaang Mongondow Regency, as one of the regions that has shown a serious commitment to implementing policies for the acceleration of stunting reduction, represents a relevant case for comprehensive analysis from both public policy and legal perspectives (Paikah et al. 2024).

Theoretically, public policy can be understood as a set of actions chosen by the government to do or not to do in order to achieve certain objectives (Dye). In the context of stunting reduction, public policy encompasses not only legal instruments in the form of regulations but also programs, budget allocations, coordination mechanisms, and administrative actions undertaken by local governments (Apriliani, Sadhana, and Fristin 2023).

The policy implementation model applied in this analysis is George C. Edward III's policy implementation model, which emphasizes four key variables determining policy success: communication, resources, disposition (the attitudes of implementers), and bureaucratic structure. These four variables serve as analytical instruments to assess the extent to which stunting reduction policies in South Bolaang Mongondow Regency have been implemented effectively (Mubarok, Zauhar, and Setyowati 2020).

Furthermore, decentralization and regional autonomy theories, as articulated by Rondinelli and Cheema, emphasize that the delegation of authority from the central government to local governments aims to enhance policy efficiency, effectiveness, and responsiveness to local needs. In the context of stunting, local governments are expected to adapt national policies to the social, economic, and cultural characteristics of their communities.

Stunting reduction policies in South Bolaang Mongondow Regency do not stand alone but constitute an integral part of the national legal system. Vertically, regional policies refer to Presidential Regulation No. 72 of 2021 on the Acceleration of Stunting Reduction, which serves as the national legal umbrella. This Presidential Regulation emphasizes a cross-sectoral convergence approach and mandates the establishment of the Stunting Reduction Acceleration Team (*Tim Percepatan Penurunan Stunting*—TPPS) at all levels of government.

At the regional level, the Government of South Bolaang Mongondow Regency has followed up on this national policy by issuing Regent Regulation No. 96 of 2022 on the Acceleration of Stunting Reduction, which was subsequently reinforced through Regional Regulation of South Bolaang Mongondow Regency No. 9 of 2024 on the Implementation of Stunting Reduction Acceleration. This regional regulation serves a strategic function as the operational legal basis for regional government agencies in designing programs, allocating budgets, and conducting cross-sectoral coordination.

From a juridical perspective, the existence of this regional regulation reflects the principle of *lex specialis* in the exercise of regional autonomy, whereby local governments are granted the authority to regulate national policies in greater detail in accordance with local needs and conditions.

1. Policy Communication Aspect

From Edward III's perspective, policy communication encompasses clarity, consistency, and the intensity of policy transmission to both implementers and policy targets. In South Bolaang Mongondow Regency, communication regarding stunting reduction policies has been carried out through the establishment of the Stunting Reduction Acceleration Team (*Tim Percepatan Penurunan Stunting*—TPPS), cross-sectoral coordination meetings, and socialization activities at the district and village levels.

However, empirical findings indicate that gaps in understanding persist between policy formulators at the regency level and technical implementers at the village level. This is reflected in the increasing prevalence of stunting in several villages despite the implementation of existing policies and programs. Such conditions suggest that policy communication has not yet been fully effective and requires strengthening through technical guidance, mentoring, and the simplification of policy instruments to ensure they are easily understood by village officials and community health cadres.

2. Resource Aspect

Resources constitute a crucial factor in policy implementation. The resources in question include human resources, budget allocations, infrastructure, and data availability. The Government of South Bolaang Mongondow Regency has allocated specific budgets for stunting reduction programs and involved various regional government agencies in their implementation.

Nevertheless, limitations in human resources with specialized competencies in nutrition, planning, and policy evaluation remain a significant challenge. In addition, basic infrastructure such as sanitation facilities and access to clean water in several village areas has not yet been adequately provided. From the perspective of capacity-building theory, this condition demonstrates that policy success is determined not only by regulatory frameworks but also by the institutional capacity of local governments.

3. Disposition or Attitudes of Implementers

Disposition refers to the commitment, integrity, and willingness of bureaucratic actors to implement policies. In general, the Government of South Bolaang Mongondow Regency has demonstrated a relatively high level of commitment, as evidenced by various policy innovations and achievements recognized at the provincial level.

However, variations in commitment among regional government agencies and between villages are still evident. This situation has implications for uneven stunting reduction outcomes across different areas. In line with Lipsky's *street-level bureaucracy* theory, frontline policy implementers possess considerable discretion, meaning that their attitudes and levels of understanding significantly influence policy effectiveness.

4. Bureaucratic Structure Aspect

Complex bureaucratic structures often pose obstacles to effective policy implementation. While the establishment of the TPPS in South Bolaang Mongondow Regency has provided a clear coordination framework, cross-sectoral coordination in practice has not yet been fully optimal. Overlapping authorities, sectoral ego, and lengthy administrative procedures remain persistent challenges.

From the perspective of *good governance* theory, stunting reduction policies require governance arrangements that are transparent, accountable, participatory, and well-coordinated. Therefore, the simplification of administrative procedures and the strengthening

of the coordinating role of the TPPS represent strategic measures to enhance policy effectiveness.

Stunting as a Human Rights Issue and State Obligation

From a legal perspective, stunting is closely linked to the fulfillment of the right to health and children's rights. Law No. 36 of 2009 on Health and Law No. 35 of 2014 on Child Protection explicitly affirm the obligations of the state and regional governments to ensure the fulfillment of children's nutritional needs and access to health services.

Accordingly, failure to address stunting cannot merely be regarded as a policy failure but may also be interpreted as a form of state negligence in fulfilling its constitutional obligations. In this context, stunting reduction policies in South Bolaang Mongondow Regency can be analyzed as legal instruments aimed at realizing the state's responsibility to fulfill human rights.

Data from the electronic Community-Based Nutrition Recording and Reporting System (*e-PPGBM*) indicate that South Bolaang Mongondow Regency has experienced a significant decline in stunting prevalence over the past several years, although fluctuations and unresolved stunting cases persist. This achievement demonstrates that regional policies have had a positive impact, albeit not yet evenly distributed across all areas.

The main challenges that remain include budgetary constraints, data quality issues, limitations in human resource capacity, and program sustainability. From a policy evaluation perspective, these conditions necessitate continuous policy improvement through an effective feedback loop mechanism.

Inhibiting Factors in the Implementation of Stunting Reduction Policies in South Bolaang Mongondow Regency

The implementation of stunting reduction policies at the regional level is a complex and multidimensional process. Although the Government of South Bolaang Mongondow Regency has established a relatively comprehensive regulatory framework and demonstrated a strong level of political commitment, empirical realities indicate that policy implementation has not yet been fully optimal. This is reflected in the continued presence of stunting cases in several village areas and disparities in outcomes among districts.

From a public policy perspective, these conditions suggest the existence of inhibiting factors that affect the effectiveness of policy implementation. Accordingly, this discussion aims to systematically elaborate on the factors constraining the implementation of stunting reduction policies in South Bolaang Mongondow Regency based on research findings, while linking them to policy implementation theory, principles of governance, and the local socio-economic context.

Inhibiting Factors in Policy Implementation

Theoretically, policy implementation is determined not only by the quality of regulatory frameworks but also by the interaction of various structural and non-structural variables. Referring to George C. Edward III's policy implementation model, inhibiting factors can be

classified into four main aspects: communication, resources, implementers' disposition, and bureaucratic structure. These four aspects serve as the primary analytical framework for identifying obstacles to the implementation of stunting reduction policies in South Bolaang Mongondow Regency.

In addition, the analysis is enriched by insights from *street-level bureaucracy* theory (Lipsky), *good governance* theory, and socio-cultural approaches that are relevant to the characteristics of the local community.

Constraints in the Policy Communication Aspect

One of the main inhibiting factors in the implementation of stunting reduction policies in South Bolaang Mongondow Regency lies in the aspect of policy communication. Policy communication encompasses the processes of information dissemination, understanding of policy substance, and message consistency between policy formulators and implementers at the operational level. Research findings indicate that although the local government has undertaken various forms of policy socialization—through coordination meetings, technical guidance, and TPPS forums—the understanding of village officials and community health cadres remains partial.

Many implementers at the village level continue to perceive stunting merely as a problem of child nutrition, without a comprehensive understanding of the convergence approach that requires the simultaneous implementation of both specific and sensitive interventions. This condition results in fragmented and poorly integrated program implementation at the village level. For instance, supplementary feeding programs are often implemented in isolation, without being accompanied by improvements in sanitation, parenting education, or the strengthening of household food security.

From Edward III's perspective, unclear and inconsistent policy communication reduces implementation effectiveness, as implementers lack a holistic understanding of policy objectives.

Constraints in the Resource Aspect

The next inhibiting factor concerns limitations in resources, including human resources, budgetary allocations, and supporting infrastructure. In terms of human resources, the research findings reveal that the number of health personnel—particularly nutritionists and environmental health officers—remains limited and unevenly distributed across South Bolaang Mongondow Regency.

These limitations affect the intensity of assistance provided to families at risk of stunting, as well as the optimal delivery of early detection services and child growth monitoring. Furthermore, the capacity of village-level planning officials to design programs based on stunting data remains relatively low, resulting in interventions that are often poorly targeted.

From a budgetary perspective, although funds for accelerating stunting reduction have been allocated through the Regional Revenue and Expenditure Budget (APBD) and Village Funds, the amount of funding is not yet sufficient to reach all target groups. In addition,

constraints related to budget flexibility persist due to limited understanding of regulatory provisions and administrative procedures. From the perspective of *resource dependency theory*, policies that are not supported by adequate resources tend to produce symbolic and unsustainable implementation outcomes.

Constraints in the Aspect of Implementers' Disposition and Commitment

The disposition or attitudes of policy implementers constitute a critical factor influencing the success of policy implementation. Research findings indicate that the levels of commitment and concern among policy implementers in South Bolaang Mongondow Regency vary across regional government agencies and among villages.

In several areas, village heads and their officials demonstrate a high level of commitment by prioritizing stunting reduction as part of village development agendas. However, in other areas, stunting policies are still perceived as sectoral programs that fall solely under the responsibility of the health office. These differing attitudes have significant implications for the weak integration of programs and the limited convergence of cross-sectoral interventions.

According to *street-level bureaucracy* theory, frontline policy implementers possess considerable discretion in determining how policies are translated into practice. When implementers lack strong commitment and adequate understanding, policies are prone to distortion or even neglect during implementation.

Constraints in the Aspect of Bureaucratic Structure and Coordination

A complex and insufficiently adaptive bureaucratic structure also constitutes a major constraint in the implementation of stunting reduction policies. Although the Stunting Reduction Acceleration Team (*Tim Percepatan Penurunan Stunting—TPPS*) has been established as a cross-sectoral coordination platform, research findings indicate that coordination among regional government agencies has not yet functioned optimally. Overlapping authorities, sectoral ego, and differing priorities among government organizations (*Organisasi Perangkat Daerah—OPD*) often result in program implementation that is partial and fragmented.

Furthermore, reporting and monitoring mechanisms that remain largely administrative in nature hinder comprehensive policy evaluation. From an organizational theory perspective, hierarchical and highly procedural bureaucratic structures tend to inhibit policy innovation and responsiveness. Therefore, stunting reduction policies require a more collaborative and flexible institutional approach to enhance coordination and policy effectiveness.

Social, Cultural, and Community Participation Constraints

In addition to internal governmental factors, the research findings also identify social and cultural factors as significant constraints on policy implementation. Persistent community perceptions that regard stunting as a hereditary condition or a matter of fate reduce the seriousness of prevention efforts. Moreover, relatively low levels of education and health literacy in several areas contribute to limited community participation in maternal and

child health programs. Traditional caregiving practices that are not aligned with the principles of balanced nutrition also pose particular challenges. From the perspective of *community participation theory*, the success of public policies is strongly influenced by the active involvement of communities as subjects of development. Without behavioral change and collective awareness, policy interventions are unlikely to achieve sustainable outcomes.

CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis of the policies of the Regional Government of South Bolaang Mongondow Regency in addressing stunting, it can be concluded that the local government has demonstrated a strong commitment to supporting the national agenda for accelerating stunting reduction. This commitment is reflected in cross-sectoral policy integration, the utilization of *e-PPGBM*-based data, and the strengthening of the roles of regional government agencies and village governments. These policies indicate an approach that is not solely oriented toward health interventions but also encompasses social protection, improvements in sanitation quality, and community nutrition education. Nevertheless, the effectiveness of policy implementation has not been evenly distributed across all areas, as evidenced by the continued presence of villages with relatively high stunting prevalence. This condition suggests that policy success is highly influenced by institutional capacity and the level of community participation at the local level.

The factors inhibiting the implementation of stunting prevention policies include limitations in human resources, suboptimal cross-sectoral coordination, reliance on assistance-based interventions without sufficient reinforcement of behavioral change, and disparities in socio-economic and geographical conditions among villages. In addition, the quality of data collection and validation of stunting cases at the grassroots level still requires strengthening to ensure that policy formulation is truly responsive to the actual needs of the community. Therefore, it is recommended that the Regional Government of South Bolaang Mongondow Regency strengthen synergy among regional government organizations and village administrations, enhance the capacity of community cadres and field facilitators, and mainstream community empowerment approaches within all stunting reduction programs. Strengthening a data-driven monitoring and evaluation system that is accurate and adaptive to local conditions is also crucial to ensuring the sustainability and equity of stunting reduction policy outcomes at the regional level.

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