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**Policy handling to accelerate
stunting reduction in Kupang
Tengah District, Regency East
Nusa Tenggara Province**

**Manejo de políticas para acelerar
la reducción del regencia en
el Distrito de Kupang Tengah,
Regencia Provincia de Nusa
Tenggara del Este**

William Djani

Jeny Jacoba Therikh

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**OS CONTORNOS SISTÊMICOS DO DIREITO ADMINISTRATIVO SANCIONADOR
BRASILEIRO E A RELAÇÃO COM O DIREITO CONSTITUCIONAL**

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Policy handling to accelerate stunting reduction in Kupang Tengah District, Regency East Nusa Tenggara Province*

Manejo de políticas para acelerar la reducción del regencia en el Distrito de Kupang Tengah, Regencia Provincia de Nusa Tenggara del Este

William Djani**

Jeny Jacoba Therikh***

Abstract

This study wants to clarify several things to realize the objectives of implementing stunting management policies. The goal is that this perspective can direct the focus of the study to an analytical framework that is appropriate, relevant, applicable, and measurable with a scientifically justifiable methodology. This study uses a qualitative descriptive research method. The study results show that the policy process for handling accelerated stunting in Central Kupang District, Kupang Regency, needs to run optimally. However, the local government and all elements involved in handling stunting have several limitations in committing to improving aspects of implementing stunting management policies to sustain national policies. The results of this study were derived as new public policy concepts based on the social context so that, in the end, they could make a concrete contribution to the achievement of the stunting management program strategy.

Keywords: Policy, Handling, Stunting, Social Context, Kupang Regency.

Resumo

Este estudio quiere aclarar varias cosas para lograr los objetivos de implementar políticas de gestión del retraso del crecimiento. El objetivo es que esta perspectiva pueda dirigir el enfoque del estudio hacia un marco analítico que sea apropiado, relevante, aplicable y mensurable con una metodología científicamente justificable. Este estudio utiliza un método de investigación descriptivo cualitativo. Los resultados del estudio muestran que el proceso político para abordar el retraso en el crecimiento acelerado en el distrito central de Kupang, Kupang Regency, debe funcionar de manera óptima. Sin embargo, el gobierno local y todos los elementos involucrados en el manejo del retraso del crecimiento tienen varias limitaciones a la hora de comprometerse a mejorar aspectos de la implementación de políticas de gestión del retraso del crecimiento para sostener las políticas nacionales. Los resultados de este estudio se derivaron como nuevos conceptos de política

* Artigo convidado

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pública basados en el contexto social para que, al final, pudieran hacer una contribución concreta al logro de la estrategia del programa de gestión del retraso del crecimiento.

Palabras clave: política, manejo, retraso del crecimiento, contexto social, regencia de Kupang.

1 Introduction

Its population's health level strongly influences a country's human resources quality. That is reflected in millions of children worldwide who fail to achieve their linear growth potential and cause stunted growth or stunting. Childhood stunting is an indicator of children's well-being and an accurate reflection of social inequality. Stunting is a condition of failure to thrive in children under five (five years old) with a length or height below minus two standard deviations ($<-2SD$). That is caused by chronic malnutrition and recurrent infections, especially during the 1,000 First Days of Life (HPK) period, so that children's height is shorter and very short compared to normal children of their age and has delays in thinking¹. Stunting is the most common form of malnutrition in children in developing countries. The problem of stunting is mainly due to the coverage and quality of health services, the environment, food security, and the influence of parenting styles.

Stunting is a problem and threat to the nation's and regional generations that needs to be adequately solved. Stunting hit the world and Indonesia up to the regional level. If we look closely at the world situation released by Unicef, currently, around 162 million children under the age of 5 are stunted. If this trend continues, it does project that by 2025 there will be 127 children under the age of 5 years who will experience stunting. Based on data, more than half of stunted children, or 56%, live in Asia, and more than a third of 37% live in Africa.

Nationally in Indonesia, according to the 2019 Bappenas research results, the percentage of stunting in Indonesia is still relatively high because 28 out of 100 toddlers are stunted. This condition is at the Southeast Asian level; the Asian Development Bank (2022) reports the prevalence of children with stunting under five years old; Indonesia is the second highest in Southeast Asia, with a total of 31.8% in 2021. Data from the Indonesian Ministry of Health, in Indonesia, the prevalence of toddlers experiencing stunting in 2019 decreased compared to 2018, namely from 30.8% to 27.7%, but this figure is still high. Based on the 2021 Indonesian Nutrition Status Survey (SSGI) results of the Ministry of Health, the stunting prevalence rate in Indonesia in 2021 is 24.4% or a decrease of 6.4% from 30.8% in 2018. It does hope that by 2024, all districts/cities in Indonesia will have implemented integrated stunting reduction interventions that support the achievement of the 2020-2024 RPJMN targets.

NTT Province is the province that has the highest stunting prevalence rate in Indonesia; even the stunting prevalence rate in NTT Province is higher in Papua and West Papua Provinces, the poorest provinces in Indonesia. In Indonesia, the prevalence of stunting in the Province of NTT in 2019 was 43.82%; this figure was much higher than in 2018 at 42.6% (kemkes.go.id, 2020), while the prevalence of stunting under five in the last three years in the Province NTT continues to experience a decline. However, the figure is still high at 27.5%, with 57 deaths. Data on the number of stunting in 2018 was 30.1%, then in 2019, it decreased to 27.9%. While until the August 2020 period, it was 27.5 percent (NTT et al. Office, 2020), and the stunting rate in NTT Province in 2022 had increased from 1.1 percent to 22.0 from 2021, which was 20.9 percent (Working Group (Pokja) Handling of Stunting in NTT as of 18 March 2022).

¹ Hagos, S., Hailemariam, D., WoldeHanna, T., & Lindtjorn, B. (2017). Spatial heterogeneity and risk factors for stunting among children under age five in Ethiopia: A Bayesian geo-statistical model. *PLoS One*, 12(2), e0170785.

Kupang Regency has a stunting rate with a percentage of 8.42% based on the results of a study on the acceleration of stunting reduction (2022). To handle it, the Kupang Regency Government specifically presents related elements from the related Regional Apparatus Organizations, Community Health Centers, sub-district heads, village heads-BPD, and NGOs to dissect the problem of stunting. Relevant elements are involved in handling stunting in Kupang Regency, but it does realize that it has yet to do maximized; there is a commitment to reduce stunting rates in the coming years to reach 14%.

2 Literature review

2.1 Stunting Concept

Stunting (short body) is a state of a concise body that exceeds the deficit -2 S.D. below the median length or population height, which is an international reference². Stunting is a condition where the height based on age is low, or the child's body is shorter than other children his age (MCN, 2009). Stunting is used as an indicator of chronic malnutrition, which describes a history of child malnutrition in the long term. This event shows the nutritional state before³. Stunting is a condition where a child's height is too low. Stunting or too short based on age is the height that is below minus two standard deviations (<-2SD) from the WHO child growth standard nutritional status table⁴.

Short Toddler (Stunting) is a nutritional status based on the PB/U or TB/U index where in the anthropometric standards for assessing the nutritional status of children, the measurement results are at the threshold (Z-Score) <-2 SD to -3 S.D. (short/stunted) and <-3 S.D. (very short/stunted) (Ministry of Health RI, 2012). Stunting is used as an indicator of chronic malnutrition which describes a history of child malnutrition in the long term so that this event shows how the state of nutrition was before.

Childhood stunting is an indicator of children's well-being and an accurate reflection of social inequality. Stunting is the most common form of child malnutrition in the world, with an estimated 161 million children worldwide in 2013, falling below the median of the World Health Organization (WHO) Child Growth Standards⁵. Stunting is a syndrome in which linear growth failure serves as a marker of various pathological disorders associated with increased morbidity and mortality, loss of potential for physical growth, decreased neurodevelopmental and cognitive function, and increased risk of chronic disease in adulthood⁶.

Stunting is also associated with increased morbidity and mortality from infections, particularly pneumonia, and diarrhea in children but also sepsis, meningitis, tuberculosis, and hepatitis, the occurrence of a generalized immune disorder in severely stunted children. The interaction between stunting and infection often causes a vicious cycle that worsens nutritional status and increases susceptibility to infection. Infection interferes with nutritional status through decreased appetite and impaired intestinal absorption. In essence, stunting increases the risk of infection with its negative impact on epithelial barrier function and altered immune response⁷. In the current world, around 162 million children under five do stunts. If this trend

² Gibney, M. J. (2004). *The ethics and politics of asylum: Liberal democracy and the response to refugees*. Cambridge University Press.

³ Kartikawati, N.D, 2011, Buku Ajar Dasar-Dasar Keperawatan Gawat Darurat, Jakarta: Salemba Medika

⁴ WHO. (2010). Nutrition Landscape Information System (NLIS) Country Profile Indicators: Interpretation Guide. In Nutrition landscape information system (NLIS) Country Profile. Geneva: World Health Organization. Retrieved from

⁵ Mercedes de Onis, Francesco Branca. 2016. *Childhood stunting: a global perspective*. First published: 17 May 2016. Department of Nutrition for Health and Development, World Health Organization, Geneva, Switzerland. <https://doi.org/10.1111/mcn.12231>

⁶ Prendergast A.J. & Humphrey J.H. .2014. *The Stunting Syndrome in Developing Countries*. Pediatrics and International Child Health 34, 250 –265

⁷ Olofin I., McDonald C.M., EzzatiM., FlaxmanS., BlackR.E., Fawzi W.W. (2013). *Associations of Suboptimal Growth with All-Cause and Cause-Specific Mortality in Children Under five Years: Apooled Analysis Of Ten Prospective Studies*. PLoS One 8, e64636.

continues, this projected that by 2025 there will be 127 million children under the age of five who will experience stunting. According to the United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), more than half of stunted children, or 56%, live in Asia, and more than a third, or 37%, live in Africa. Malnutrition affects 20% of children under five in developing countries. Stunting is a form of malnutrition when children have low height for their age. The global prevalence of stunting in 2019 was 21.4%.

Indonesia is one of the various developing countries in the world that is facing the problem of stunting nutrition (short toddlers). Even though Indonesia has succeeded in reducing malnutrition and stunting rates over the past few years, these two problems must still do considered serious to prevent an increase in malnutrition and stunting rates in the future⁸. The Ministry of Health's Basic Health Research data from 2013 to 2018 and the Global Nutrition Report data describe urgent nutritional problems in Indonesia, and stunting is still one of the triple-doubles of the most significant nutritional problems. Even though Indonesia has succeeded in reducing malnutrition and stunting rates over the past few years, these two problems must still do considered serious to prevent an increase in malnutrition and stunting rates in the future. Even though it has decreased, the fact is that the percentage of stunting in Indonesia is still relatively high because 28 out of 100 toddlers are stunted. The 2019 Bappenas research results state that Indonesia has the fifth-highest stunting rate globally.

Stunting (dwarf) is when a toddler has a length or height that is less compared to age. This condition does measure by length or height that is more than minus two standard deviations of the WHO child growth standard median. Toddler stunting includes chronic nutritional problems caused by many factors, such as socioeconomic conditions, maternal nutrition during pregnancy, infant illness, and lack of nutritional intake. Stunted toddlers in the future will experience difficulties in achieving optimal physical and cognitive development (bulletin stunting.kemendes.go.id, 2018).

Another definition states that short and very short are nutritional statuses based on the index of body length for age (PB/U) or height for age (TB/U), which are the equivalent of the terms stunted (short) and severely stunted (very short). According to the Decree of the Minister of Health Number 95/MENKES/SK/XII/2010 concerning Anthropometric Standards for Assessment of Children's Nutritional Status, the meaning of short and very short is nutritional status based on the index of body length for age (PB/U) or height for age (T.B.) /U), which is the equivalent of the term Stunted (short) and severely stunted (very short).

The prevalence of stunting events determined by WHO in 1995 does categorize into four parts: low, medium, high, and very high prevalence. The following is the percentage category for the prevalence of stunting (World Health Organization, 2010):

<20% Low prevalence

20-29% Medium prevalence

30-39% High prevalence

>40% very high prevalence

2.2 Causes of Stunting

The Ministry of Health of the Republic of Indonesia states that several causes of stunting do still included in family education related to knowledge about stunting as follows (bulletin stunting.kemendes.go.id, 2018):

⁸ Azis, N. A., & Margaretha, M. (2017). Strategi coping terhadap kecemasan pada ibu hamil dengan riwayat keguguran di kehamilan sebelumnya. *Jurnal ilmiah psikologi terapan*, 5(1), 144-157.

1. Mother's condition

Maternal health and nutritional conditions before and during pregnancy and after delivery affect fetal growth and the risk of stunting. Other factors that affect the mother are the mother's Posture (short), the distance between pregnancies that are too close, the mother who is still a teenager, and inadequate nutritional intake during pregnancy.

According to the Regulation of the Minister of Health Number 97 of 2014 concerning Pre-Pregnancy, Pregnancy, Childbirth, and Postpartum Health Services, Contraceptive Services, and Sexual Health Services, the factors that aggravate the condition of pregnant women are too young, too old, too young, often giving birth and too close birth spacing. The gestational age of mothers who are too young (under 20 years) is at risk of giving birth to babies with low birth weight (LBW). LBW babies affect about 20% of the occurrence of stunting.

2. Nutrition obtained by the baby

Nutrition obtained from birth greatly influences its growth, including the risk of stunting. Failure to carry out early initiation of breastfeeding (IMD), failure to provide exclusive breast milk (ASI), and early weaning processes can be a factor in stunting. Meanwhile, from the side of providing complementary food for ASI (MP ASI), the things that need to do considered are the quantity, quality, and safety of the food given.

According to the growth chart, nutritional intake in toddlers is essential in supporting their growth so that growth failure does not occur, which can cause stunting. There is a Supplementary Feeding program to meet the nutritional adequacy of toddlers, especially thin toddlers, in the form of local PTM and manufactured PMT, namely M.T toddler biscuits. If the weight is by the calculation of weight for height, then the M.T. for underweight toddlers can be stopped and continued with a balanced nutritional family meal.

3. Social, economic, and environmental conditions

Socioeconomic and sanitary conditions of residence are also related to stunting. Economic conditions are closely related to the ability to meet nutritious intake and health services for pregnant women and toddlers. At the same time, sanitation and food safety can increase the risk of infectious diseases.

Infectious diseases caused by poor hygiene and sanitation (e.g., diarrhea and intestinal worms) can interfere with the absorption of nutrients in the digestive process. Some infectious diseases that babies suffer from can cause babies to lose weight. If this condition occurs for a long time and this not accompanied by adequate intake for the healing process, it can result in stunting. According to Susenas, a household with proper sanitation is if the sanitation facility meets health requirements, including equipped with a type of gooseneck toilet or plengsengan with a lid and has a septic tank or wastewater disposal system (SPAL). Moreover, it is a defecation facility that does use alone or together.

2.3 Stunting Impact

The Ministry of Health of the Republic of Indonesia stated that there were impacts arising from stunting (bulletin stunting. remakes.go.id, 2018). The impacts caused by stunting can be divided into short-term and long-term impacts as follows:

1. Short-Term Impact.

- a. Increased incidence of morbidity and mortality;
- b. Cognitive, motoric, and verbal development in children is not optimal;
- c. Increased health costs.

2. Long-Term Impact.

- a. Posture that is not optimal as an adult (shorter than in general);
- b. Increased risk of obesity and other diseases;
- c. Declining reproductive health;
- d. Less than optimal learning capacity and performance during the school period;
- e. Productivity and work capacity could be more optimal.

2.4 Policy

Policy studies have become very popular in the science of public administration, and this field of study still needs to be more descriptive and very difficult to develop. The authors began to generalize and build theories about the process of making public policy (public policy making) by using models developed from other fields of study; as Simon said in Thoha (1987) that the study of public policy does see as a field of study that can integrate with the social sciences. Policy science studies the decision-making process or the process of selecting and evaluating available and relevant information to solve specific problems. The dichotomy of public administration and politics arises when the issue of the role of politics and administration does debate, which is a thesis that collides with the antithesis, and the identity of public administration has found when the dichotomy is abandoned or ends with a synthesis. Several institutional factors heavily influence academic actions regarding public policy. Government agencies, departments, and other agencies have do involved in public policy thinking. These government organizations think more about how the welfare of this community does create. These organizations think more about the interests of society than other political thoughts. There is a need for policy analysis experts who can evaluate existing programs, plan alternative programs, and think creatively about the right way to solve public problems.

In various fields of life, policies can have a positive impact, and these policies can build people's lives in a better direction. For this reason, it is necessary to have policy criteria as benchmarks in determining the success of policy implementation. These criteria are as follows: Setting the agenda; Policy formulation; Policy adoption; Policy implementation; Policy assessment⁹. Harold D. Laswell (1965) put forward the meaning of policy as science-oriented to contextual problems, multidisciplinary, and explicitly normative. The policy sciences do design to highlight the fundamental and often overlooked issues that arise when citizens and policymakers adapt to ongoing social changes political and policy transformations to serve democratic goals. In carrying out the policy role, policy actors need to Pay attention to the social situation to consider everything to ensure the smooth Implementation of the policy. The Implementation of this policy involves many parties to be able to carry out its functions.

According to Anderson, quoted by Abdul Wahab (1997:2), the policy is the behavior of several official actors, groups of government agencies, or a series of actors in a particular field of activity.¹⁰ The same thing was also stated by Frederick in Wahab (1997: 3) that policy is an action that directs the goals proposed by a person, group, or government in a particular environment in connection with the presence of certain obstacles while looking for opportunities to achieve goals or realize the desired goals. A policy is said to be successful if the policy can achieve a common goal. Public Policy is a series of more or less related choices (including decisions not to act) by government agencies or offices. The role of policy here becomes a guide in carrying out a government activity. The policy includes two elements, namely policymakers and people who implement policies. In order to achieve the policy objectives, it is necessary to pay attention to the Implementation of the policy so that it goes according to the direction and objectives set.

⁹ Wibawa, S. (1994). Kebijakan publik. *Proses dan Analisis, Intermedia, Jakarta*.

¹⁰ Abdul Wahab solichin. (1997). *Analisis kebijaksanaan, dari Formulasi Ke implementasi kebijaksanaan Negara*, Jakarta: Edisi Kedua, Bumi Aksara.

Policies are decisions or choices of action that directly regulate the management and distribution of natural, financial, and human resources in the public interest, namely the people, residents, communities, or citizens. Regarding the process, the policy is defined as the result of synergy, compromise, or even competition between various ideas, theories, ideologies, and interests representing a country's political system. Therefore, the policy is a government instrument to take action in specific fields such as public facilities, transportation, education, health, housing, welfare, e-government, and others that do consider to impact the lives of its citizens positively. In another sense, policies are only limited to official documents such as laws and government regulations. However, some of them interpret the policy as a guideline of reference, strategy, and framework of action that is selected or determined as the outline of the government in carrying out development activities.

It realized that the variation in the policy definition is so broad and unavoidable because the term policy seeks to briefly explain various actions, from observing issues or problems, formulating and deciding, to Implementation, monitoring, and evaluation. Bridgeman and Davis (2004) state that every law and regulation is a policy, but only some policies realize in legislation or regulations. In understanding such a policy, interlocking dimensions identify between policy as a choice of legal action, Policy as a hypothesis, and Policy as a goal.

Policy is a scientific discipline that can be studied from the aspect of sciences and is helpful for practical purposes, how to apply it to solve public problems. In public policy studies, there are known policy analysis studies, implementation studies, and policy evaluation studies.

The meaning of policy as a series of activities or actions is added by Friedrich 1969 in Agustino (2016: 16) defines policy as an action that leads to goals proposed by a person, group, or government in a particular environment in connection with the presence of certain obstacles while looking for opportunities to achieve the goal or realize the desired goal so that the achievement of a goal¹¹. Formulates an understanding of public policy, namely First, Public Policy is a policy made by state or public administrators. So, public policy is everything done and not done by the government¹². Second, public policy is a policy that regulates shared life or public life, not the life of an individual or an individual. Public policies related to stunting prevention did implement by the Ministry. They coordinated across sectors, with Bappenas being the primary implementer of the policy through the Head of Bappenas to determine the focus location for integrated stunting reduction policy interventions in 2022 through Presidential Regulation Number 72 of 2021 concerning the Acceleration of Stunting Reduction, which is holistic, integrative and of good quality through coordination, synergy, and synchronization among stakeholders. This Presidential Regulation is a substitute for Presidential Regulation 42 of 2013 concerning the National Movement to Accelerate Nutrition Improvement.

Public Policy is a complex process. However, without intending to reduce this complexity, the authors can conclude that public Policy is a series of policy processes (decisions and actions) carried out by the government to solve problems that arise in society, primarily related to the problem of stunting prevention. As a form of the central government's high commitment, the Vice President of the Republic of Indonesia chaired a Ministerial Coordination Meeting for stunting reduction on 12 July 2017 to formulate policies to reduce stunting prevalence rates in Indonesia. The meeting decided that in its Implementation, it is essential to implement a stunting reduction policy using a multi-sectoral approach through synchronizing national, local, and community programs at the central and regional levels. The stunting reduction is a national priority program that must be included in the Government Work Plan (RKP).

The central government's policy has also developed a National Strategy for Accelerating Stunting Prevention through Presidential Regulation Number 72 of 2021 concerning the Acceleration of Stunting Reduction, which is holistic, integrative, and highly quality through coordination, synergy, and synchronization

¹¹ Agustino, Leo. (2016). *Dasar-Dasar Kebijakan Publik*. Bandung. Alfabeta.

¹² Nugroho D, Riant. (2006). *Kebijakan Publik, Formulasi, Implementasi, dan. Evaluasi*. Jakarta: Gramedia.

among stakeholders. This Presidential Regulation is a substitute for Presidential Regulation 42 of 2013 concerning the National Movement to Accelerate Nutrition Improvement.

Period 2018-2024 (Stunting Strategy). The general objective of the National Strategy for Stunting is to accelerate stunting prevention within the framework of existing policies and institutions. These objectives will be achieved through five specific objectives as follows:

- a. Ensuring stunting prevention is a priority for the government and society at all levels
- b. Increasing public awareness and changing people's behavior to prevent stunting
- c. Strengthening convergence through coordination and consolidation of central, regional, and village programs and activities
- d. Increase access to nutritious food and promote food security
- e. Improve monitoring and evaluation to ensure quality service delivery, increase accountability, and accelerate learning.

At the NTT Province level, reducing the prevalence of stunting is a macro indicator target in the NTT Province RPJMD 2018-2023. Since 2018, the Provincial Government of NTT has implemented a convergence policy to reduce stunting intensively, which involves all districts/cities and all related institutions, and the result is a sharp reduction in stunting to 20.9% (2021).

3 Methods

3.1 Research Approach

This study uses a qualitative descriptive research method. According to Usman and Akbar (2004:4), descriptive research intends to make a systematic, factual, and accurate description of the facts and characteristics of a particular population. In other words, this study describes the nature of something taking place at the time of the study. This qualitative method is based more on phenomenological philosophy, which prioritizes appreciation (*verstehen*) by trying to live up to and interpret the meaning of an interaction event of human behavior in certain situations according to the perspective of the researcher himself¹³.

In this study, the authors also used survey research to obtain primary data regarding policies for handling the accelerated decline in stunting in Kupang Tengah District, Kupang Regency. Based on existing data, the author attempts to describe/describe systematically, factually, and accurately the facts, characteristics, and relationships between existing phenomena.

They are determining the focus to limit study, in this case, limiting the field of inquiry, for example, limiting oneself to using specific theories appropriate to the problem under study. In contrast, theories that are not appropriate should be avoided as much as possible. The focus of the research function is to meet the criteria for inclusions, such as obtaining data that is new to the field. With the guidance and direction of a research focus, the researcher knows precisely which data needs to be collected and which data does not need to be included in the collected data. The problems and research focus are closely related. Therefore, the research problems are used as a reference in the focus, although the focus can change and develop in the field according to the development of research problems found in the field.

¹³ Akbar, Husaini Usman, Purnomo Setiadi (2009) *Metodologi Penelitian Sosial*, Jakarta: Bumi Aksara.

Based on the policy issues for handling the acceleration of stunting reduction in the Kupang Tengah District area, Kupang Regency, this focused on research on policies for handling stunting, especially on the factors that support and hinder policies for handling the acceleration of stunting reduction studied:

1. Optimizing the Acceleration of Stunting Reduction, including:
 - a. Understanding the Team's Duties for Accelerating Stunting Reduction (TPPS).
 - b. Understanding of the Regulations governing TPPS
 - c. Having resources in carrying out the main tasks and functions
 - d. There are TPPS meetings at various levels in handling stunting
2. Implementation of the Essence of Convergence in Collaborative Work, including:
 - a. Implementation of policies related to handling stunting.
 - b. There are macro and micro rules and clarity related to stunting management
 - c. Building actor collaboration in handling stunting.
3. The observed opportunities for parents who care about stunting or foster fathers for stunted children are:
 - a. attention and intervention of related agencies.
 - b. Willingness to be a stunting father or mother
 - c. Having a foster father for stunting children

3.2 Research sites

The research location is where the researcher can capture the actual state of the object to be studied. The research locations were villages in the Kupang Tengah District, Kupang Regency, which focused on villages with high stunting rates. The consideration for determining the location of this research is because Kupang Tengah Subdistrict consists of villages with a high stunting rate, namely 389 toddlers or 10.79%.

3.3 Types and Sources of Research Data

Informants were selected to obtain clear and in-depth information on various matters related to the research problem. The procedure for selecting the initial informants was carried out purposively. In contrast, the subsequent informants used the snowball technique, namely taking one person to be interviewed and then moving on to other informants in sequence until the required number of informants does obtain.

The types of data that the authors obtained in this field research are primary data and secondary data that are both qualitative and quantitative, including:

- a. Primary Data, namely data obtained directly from informants in the form of information in the field, which includes the state of stunting and the influencing factors. The resource persons were the Village Head, Village Officials, Village Midwives, communities (K.K.) with stunted children, Health Workers at the Health Center, and Yandu Post as a key informant is the District Head of Central Kupang.
- b. Secondary data, namely data obtained through reports/books/records closely related to the problem under study, including data from all activities related to policies for handling the acceleration of stunting reduction and other relevant documents.

3.4 Data collection technique

In collecting the data for this research, literature studies, research on documents, observations, and interviews were used with the Government of Kupang Regency, Kupang Tengah District, Village Governments in the Kupang Tengah District, Village Consultative Body, Community Institutions in the Village, target group, and non-target groups that are relevant to the research problem. The types of data collected are primary data and secondary data. Data collection do carry out through techniques namely:

a. To obtain primary data through in-depth interview techniques and structured interviews to obtain a detailed and in-depth explanation of policies and factors influencing the handling of the accelerated reduction of stunting in the Kupang Tengah District area.

b. Observation is also an effort to obtain primary data, a technique of collecting information through Observation while the research process is ongoing. Observations in this study include data on stunting.

c. Documentation Techniques are used to obtain secondary data, namely by examining documents and literature collected from various documents such as laws and regulations, archives, reports, and other supporting documents that contain the opinions of policy experts concerning research.

3.5 Data analysis technique

Qualitative analysis in a study does use if the research data taken from the field also has qualitative characteristics. That can be seen from the research variables' morphology and structure and the objectives that should be achieved. Data analysis is arranging and organizing data sequences into a pattern, category, and basic descriptive unit.¹⁴ Furthermore, qualitative data analysis relies on qualitative descriptive strategies and verification; qualitative descriptive strategies do based on inductive and deductive ways of thinking qualitative strategies¹⁵. Using a qualitative descriptive strategy begins with analyzing various data collected from a study, then moves towards forming categorical conclusions or specific general characteristics. Therefore, this strategy starts with data classification work.

The data analysis technique in this study uses a componential analysis technique which is a qualitative data analysis technique through the analysis of elements that have contrasting relationships with each other in predetermined domains to do analyzed in more detail.

4 Discussion

Data from the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Indonesia states that in Indonesia, the prevalence of stunting under five in 2019 has decreased compared to 2018, namely from 30.8 percent to 27.7 percent, but this figure remains high. In 2007, the stunting rate in Indonesia reached 36.8%; in 2010, it reached 34.6%; in 2013, it reached 37.2%; in 2018, it was 30.8%. For comparison, in America in 2010, the stunting rate only reached 2.1%; for Japan, it was 7.1% in 2014, while Malaysia, Thailand, and Singapore were 17%, 16%, and 4%, respectively (makes.go.id, 2020). From a micro perspective, based on the World Health Organization standards, the prevalence of stunting in the NTT Province is very high prevalence of stunting, with the number of stunting cases reaching 43.82%, while of the 22 regencies/cities in the NTT Province, TTS Regency is the district with the highest stunting cases (very high prevalence) at 48.3%.

¹⁴ Patton. 1980. *Metode Penelitian Kualitatif*. Bandung: PT Remaja Rosda Karya.

¹⁵ Bungin, Burhan. 2001. *Metodologi Penelitian Sosial: Format-format Kuantitatif dan Kualitatif*. Surabaya: Airlangga University Press.

The stunting case was to the results of field research that the problem faced by the Team for the Acceleration of Stunting Reduction (TPPS) in Kupang Regency was budget constraints. Nevertheless, TPPS meetings are often held and followed by field visits to track stunting cases involving the relevant regional apparatus organizations. TPPS must fully understand the main tasks, functions, and work mechanisms according to the rules. The TPK's obstacles related to the recruitment pattern could have gone better. Mini-workshops as a forum for discussing the problem of stunting should be held every month but are constrained by the budget so that it has not run optimally.

In general, according to the results of the study, the main tasks and functions of the team for handling the acceleration of stunting reduction (TPPS) are as follows:

- a. The TPPS secretariat needs to function optimally
- b. Funding support for the secretariat is minimal
- c. The convergence program needs to run adequately
- d. The stunting mini workshop (Minilok) has does carried out according to established procedures
- e. The TPPS reconciliation meeting has not yet do hold

A review of document data shows that stunting data has does published, but macro stunting data at the Kupang Regency level is 22.3%. Based on a review of documents on the acceleration of stunting reduction in Kupang Tengah District, Kupang Regency (2022) by 10.79 percent. Therefore, the policy for handling the acceleration of stunting reduction in Kupang Regency needs to pay attention to 3 essential things as follows:

4.1 Optimizing the Acceleration of Stunting Reduction in Nagakeo District

The study results show that optimizing the acceleration of stunting reduction in Kupang Regency has yet to run optimally. Regulations in the form of decrees (S.K.) related to handling the acceleration of stunting reduction, not all components have received decrees and have a good understanding of their main tasks and functions, and even meetings at the district, sub-district, and village levels have not run optimally according to regulations. Even so, the actions related to handling the acceleration of stunting at the lower levels, namely the District and Village, are running. From a regulatory perspective, efforts need to prevent village-based stunting, requiring a village-based stunting roadmap integrated with the District and District authorities. Specific and sensitive interventions are needed—intervention in handling stunting and its prevention by paying attention to environmental cleanliness and using clean water. Counseling and mentoring need to do carried out on an ongoing basis in schools.

In another aspect, the results of the study show that the handling of stunting pays attention to matters related to data collection on stunting cases, eating patterns, healthy lifestyles, clean water, a healthy environment, preventing promiscuity, assistance, medical interventions (couples of childbearing age, pregnant women, women breastfeeding, toddlers), increase in vegetable and animal food security (small livestock program: poultry, et cetera.), use of yards for food needs. Participation of various elements in the handling of stunting is essential in accelerating the reduction of stunting so that the commitment of the Kupang Regency Government is determined to solve the problem of stunting by carrying out development based on prevention and reduction of stunting, which will do followed up with the Regent's Regulation on Procedures for Handling Stunting.

The results of the TPPS research involved elements of related regional apparatus organizations, community leaders, religious leaders, elements of NGOs (Plan International), police, military, and private parties. Although the Kupang Regency Government is committed to handling the acceleration of stunting reduction, they still need to handle it, including resources and several other factors. On the other hand, the research results show that handling the acceleration of stunting decline is still influenced by local culture, meaning

that married couples have not appropriately managed the time of childbirth, which has implications for growth, neglected children, etcetera. However, they realized that if this condition is maintained, it will result in cases of stunting. Therefore, there is an effort from elements of traditional leaders together with the local government to carry out a campaign on stunting which is a joint homework.

The results showed that several elements from both TPPS and community leaders, religious leaders, TNI, Polri, and OPD within the scope of the Kupang Regency Government showed that the handling of the accelerated reduction of stunting in Kupang Regency had does carried out optimally. That is to the review of documents that the main tasks and functions of TPPS itself need to be better understood. On the other hand, meetings have yet to be held among TPPS to discuss the main tasks and functions of TPPS.

4.2 Implementation of the Essence of Convergence in Collaborative Work in Central Kupang District, Kupang Regency

From the aspect of the Implementation of the essence of convergence in collaborative work, according to the results of the research, it shows that the Implementation has not run optimally, meaning that the implementers of the stunting reduction acceleration program at the lower level carry out the stunting reduction acceleration program, but does still constrained by the lack of health facilities, conditions of food availability, patterns of empowerment and sustainability. In collaboration, it is running but not integrated into the top level; it is still more at the sub-district level. Cross-agency collaboration, handling the accelerated reduction of stunting with related institutions such as the Health Service, the Ministry of Religion, and other institutions, must be built as good cooperation partners.

The results of the study show that the aspects of implementing the essence of convergence in collaborative work in Kupang Tengah District, Kupang Regency, that although TPPS has not carried out its main tasks and functions optimally, various elements have taken actions to accelerate the reduction in stunting rates. The observations show that outreach activities have does carried out as a preventive measure against stunting by collecting data on children experiencing economic problems. Efforts to prevent stunting must be carried out in various ways, namely, strengthening children's capacity, improving parenting patterns, and healthy food.

The study results show that even though the stunting rate in Kupang Regency has decreased, efforts to prevent stunting are still being carried out so that new stunting cases do not arise. Facts on the ground show a lack of child care and having a Family Planning (K.B.) village but constrained by budgetary factors for collaboration with other elements, so even so, a convergence movement is needed to build collaboration. The study results in show that good planning does need regarding the handling of stunting, the mapping of target groups followed by outreach that is not only educative but also physical therapy further to increase public awareness about the importance of stunting prevention. Self-criticism of stunting campaigns, which so far has not been optimal in the target group, is still more in the elite group. The study results show that stunting prevention is changing people's perspectives and ways of thinking and changing patterns of healthy living behavior. He also explained that economic factors trigger stunting cases, so good financial management is needed to improve child nutrition.

The observations show that preventing stunting is done through concrete efforts, namely assisting pregnant women, nutritional intake, and changing behavior. The stunting issue is a public issue with a risk, so it needs to does solved by working together with all related elements. Stunting requires strong policies supported by exemplary Implementation. Facts on the ground show that stunting is not very popular and has yet to be known by various groups, affecting who is responsible for handling it. Moreover, various elements are responsible for handling stunting. What is the process and progress? Because stunting is a problem, it requires balanced teamwork from local government and community elements because stunting is a problem.

According to social media, stunting is a phenomenon that lives in the digital era and triggers an increase in stunting status caused by a generation that follows a diet. It is necessary to build a model for handling the acceleration of stunting reduction in the Kupang Regency. Moreover, always carry out socialization on stunting in the field. The research results show that mothers pay less attention to children because they are busy, so children are always entrusted to grandmothers, housekeepers, and neighbors. That indicates a need for knowledge of mothers in terms of parenting, nutrition, and sanitation arrangements.

4.3 Opportunities for parents to care about stunting or foster fathers for stunting children

Regarding opportunities for Implementation, parents care about stunting or foster fathers of stunted children in Kupang Regency. Research shows that parents care about stunting or foster fathers of stunted children have implemented. The study results show that the State Civil Apparatus has stunted foster children and mothers. In fact, according to the results of field observations in the Kupang Tengah District, there is already a foster mother for one stunted child.

Opportunities for parents who care about stunting or foster fathers for stunting children in Kupang Regency seem to be running. The study results show that the TNI and Polri have stunted children. Even within the TNI, a command system does implement; namely, if a superior or commander has a stunted foster child, then at the subordinate/staff level, they must also have a stunted foster child. What does implement within the Indonesian National Armed Forces (TNI) is an example of other elements as foster fathers of stunting in preventing stunting cases in Kupang Tengah District, Kupang Regency.

5 Conclusion

There are several conclusions from the results of a policy study on handling the acceleration of stunting reduction in Kupang Tengah District, Kupang Regency. Locally, at the Kupang Regency level, although the prevalence of stunting has decreased, efforts to eliminate stunting are still faced with problems related to the main tasks and functions of TPPS in Central Kupang District, Kupang Regency, which have yet to run. Implementing the program to accelerate the reduction of stunting absolutely must be carried out in a convergence manner across sectors, the government, the community, and elements of stunting observers. According to the research results, Kupang Regency shows that this aspect does carry out but still needs to be more effective. Integrated coordination, harmonization, and synchronization of cross-sectoral programs and activities from every region level at the same target and locus require more intervention so that collaboration can work somewhat in handling the accelerated reduction of stunting. Adopting the stunting foster parent movement (OTPS) or stunting foster fathers (BAAS) is a concrete form of direct intervention in the plan to accelerate the stunting rate in each region. The study results indicated that stunting foster fathers (BAAS) in Kupang Tengah District, Kupang Regency, already existed, although not all elements were stunting foster fathers. In Central Kupang District, Kupang Regency, it does found that there were figures from the State Civil Apparatus who had foster children.

5.1 Suggestion

The recommendations put forward in handling stunting in Kupang Tengah District, Kupang Regency, namely the need to optimize TPPS, increase understanding, and TPPS meetings at all levels, both Regency, District, and Village regarding the main tasks and functions that must do carried out so that the handling of accelerated reduction of stunting becomes more effective. Implementation of the nature of convergence so that it does optimize interventions carried out in an organized and integrated manner. It was increasing

collaborative cooperation at the same locus and the same substance. There needs to be a behavior change so. Far culturally, in social celebrations, gentlemen always get service first in terms of enjoying food and drink, it has to do reversed for children and mothers, and pregnant women to come first. Increase in the Foster Parent's Care for Stunting Movement (OTPS) or stunting foster fathers as a concrete form of direct intervention to accelerate the reduction of stunting in each region, increasing the number of foster parents who care about stunting so that they multiplied by various elements along with an understanding regarding the intervention model of the foster father movement.

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