

## THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CROSS-SECTORAL ACTIVITIES CONVERGENCE ACTION IN STUNTING HANDLING IN SINJAI DISTRICT

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**ABSTRACT.** This study was conducted to determine the implementation of the Cross-Sectoral Activities Convergence Action in Stunting Handling in Sinjai district. This type of research uses qualitative research. Data collection techniques are carried out using interview, and documentation techniques. The data analysis technique used consists of data condensation, data presentation and conclusions. The results of this study In carrying out integrated stunting handling starting from planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting, Regent Regulation Number 10 of 2020 concerning Stunting Prevention and Handling in Villages and Regent Regulation Number 40 of 2021 concerning Stunting Prevention and Handling in the Regions have been issued which guide the implementation of integrated stunting handling interventions. Meanwhile, judging from the implementation of public policy in Sinjai Regency in terms of handling stunting using the Van Meter and Horn models, there are 6 dimensions consisting of assessment dimensions. Of the six dimensions, there are 4 dimensions that are included in the good assessment, namely Inter-Organization Communication, Characteristics of the Implementing Organization, Economic, Social, and Political Conditions and Implementing Tendencies. While 2 dimensions are considered quite good, namely Standards, Objectives, Policies, and Resources. The conclusion of this study is that the implementation has been running but needs consistency in the future. So it is expected that related parties can strengthen coordination and communication between regional equipment organizations in efforts to handle stunting and there is a need for efforts to improve the quality of human resources and streng then target data.

**Key words:** convergence; cross sectoral; policy; prevention; stunting

### IMPLEMENTASI AKSI KONVERGENSI KEGIATAN LINTAS SEKTOR DALAM PENANGANAN STUNTING

**ABSTRAK.** Penelitian ini dilakukan untuk mengetahui pelaksanaan dari Aksi Konvergensi Kegiatan Lintas Sektor Dalam Penanganan Stunting yang ada di kabupaten Sinjai. Jenis penelitian ini menggunakan penelitian kualitatif. Teknik pengumpulan data dilakukan menggunakan teknik wawancara. Teknis pengabsahan data. Teknik analisis data yang digunakan terdiri atas kondensasi data, penyajian data dan penarikan kesimpulan. Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa dalam melaksanakan penanganan stunting terintegrasi mulai dari perencanaan, pelaksanaan, pemantauan, evaluasi dan pelaporan telah diterbitkan Peraturan Bupati Nomor 10 Tahun 2020 tentang Pencegahan dan Penanganan Stunting di Desa dan Peraturan Bupati Nomor 40 Tahun 2021 tentang Pencegahan dan Penanganan Stunting di Daerah yang menjadi panduan dalam pelaksanaan intervensi penanganan stunting secara terintegrasi. Sedangkan dilihat dari implementasi kebijakan publik Kabupaten Sinjai dalam hal penanganan Stunting menggunakan model Van Meter dan Horn ada 6 yang terdiri dari dimensi penilaian. Dari keenam dimensi tersebut ada 4 dimensi yang masuk dalam penilaian baik yakni Komunikasi Antar Organisasi, Karakteristik Organisasi Pelaksana, Kondisi Ekonomi, Sosial, dan Politik dan Kecenderungan Pelaksana. Sedangkan 2 dimensi dinilai cukup baik yakni Standar Tujuan Kebijakan dan Sumber Daya. Kesimpulan penelitian ini adalah implementasinya sudah berjalan namun perlu konsistensi kedepannya. Sehingga diharapkan pihak terkait dapat melakukan penguatan koordinasi dan komunikasi antarorganisasi perangkat daerah dalam upaya penanganan stunting dan perlu adanya upaya peningkatan kualitas SDM dan penguatan data sasaran.

**Kata Kunci:** konvergensi; lintas sektoral; kebijakan; pencegahan; pengerdilan

### INTRODUCTION

Stunting is a condition of failure to thrive in children under five due to chronic malnutrition so that children are shorter for their age (malnutrition occurs since infancy in the womb and in early life after birth, but only appears after the child is 2 years old) (Beal et al., 2018; Prendergast & Humphrey,

2014; Vaivada et al., 2020). Toddlers who are stunted will have an impact on health and the economy.

In the long term, stunting can cause economic losses of 2-3% of gross domestic product per year. (The Worldbank, 2016). Attention losses due to stunting reached Rp 339.4–509.1 trillion per year. If divided by the population of 273 million, the potential economic loss of stunting reaches Rp 1,243-1,865

million/capita/year. If divided by income of Rp 62.2 million/capita/year, then the stunting loss reaches 2-3% of the per capita income of the population. This economic loss can slow down poverty alleviation efforts which currently reach 26.36 million (9.57%) of the 273 million population.

Based on the Indonesian Nutritional Status Survey of the Ministry of Health, the prevalence of stunting toddlers in Indonesia reached 21.6% in 2022. This figure is down 2.8 points from the previous year. In the 2020-2024 National Medium-Term Development Plan, it has been targeted that in 2024 the prevalence of stunting will decrease to 14%.

The results of the 2022 Indonesian Nutritional Status Study show that 21.6% of children under five are stunted and South Sulawesi Province is in the top 10 with a percentage of 27.2%. Related to this condition, extraordinary efforts are needed to maintain, even reduce the prevalence rate. From the results of Nutrition Surveillance Monitoring in South Sulawesi Province, the prevalence of stunting toddlers decreased again to 30.09%. Based on the results of the Indonesian Nutritional Status Survey of the Ministry of Health, the prevalence of stunting toddlers in South Sulawesi reached 27.2% in 2022. This province is ranked 10th highest prevalence of stunting toddlers in Indonesia. (Laporan Kinerja Dinas Kesehatan Provinsi Sulawesi Selatan, 2022)

Sinjai Regency is one of the districts located in South Sulawesi Province, the stunting rate is still very high. This can be seen in the total incidence of stunting in 2022 in February of 29.4% which ranks 10th in South Sulawesi, far different from Makassar City, where the prevalence of stunting toddlers is 18.4 percent. Furthermore, Bone Regency, which is the largest district in South Sulawesi, has a prevalence of stunting toddlers of 27.8 percent.

Law No. 36 of 2009 concerning health that regulates the implementation of efforts to improve community nutrition includes: directions, objectives, and strategies for improving community nutrition. The purpose of improving nutrition is to improve the quality of nutrition of the Individual and the community. There are four strategies to improve community nutrition, namely: 1) improving food consumption patterns in accordance with balanced nutrition; 2) improvement of nutritionally conscious behavior, physical activity. and health; 3) increasing access and quality of nutrition services in accordance with advances in science and technology; and 4) improved food and nutrition awareness systems.

In Sinjai Regency, the handling of stunting has been regulated based on the Decree of the Regent of Sinjai number 258 of 2020 concerning the

Coordination Team for the Acceleration of Stunting Prevention and Handling in Sinjai Regency. There are several regulations that have been issued by the Sinjai Regency Government, namely Regent Regulation Number 10 of 2020 concerning Prevention and Handling of Stunting in Villages, Regent Regulation Number 38 of 2020 concerning Maternal, Newborn, Infant and Toddler Health, Sinjai Regent Regulation Number 40 of 2021 concerning Prevention and Handling of Stunting in the Regions. In addition, Regent Regulation Number 82 of 2021 concerning Communication Strategies for Behavior Change in Stunting Prevention in the Regions.

The implementation of convergence actions to reduce stunting is carried out through the implementation of 8 (eight) convergence actions. The eight convergence actions are carried out starting from the process of planning, budgeting, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of programs. In Sinjai Regency of the 8 convergence actions to reduce stunting, actions 1 to 7 have been carried out, namely situation analysis, activity plans, stunting workshops, village role trusts, human development cadre development, data management systems, and measurement and publication of stunting data, while the actions that have not been carried out are annual performance reviews.

The implementation of convergence measures is doing through certain nutrition interventions and sensitive (attempts to discourage and decrease nutritional problems indirectly. Generally, carried out by the non-health sector) with the target of Households in the First 1000 Days of Life who can access services 20 indicators of stunting reduction by Complete (convergent) at the stunting locus by harmonizing the various resources owned.

In the implementation of convergence in stunting reduction in recent years, many obstacles have been faced, starting from data on the coverage of measuring / weighing toddlers at Community Health Center in Sinjai which is inputted through the electronic application-Community-Based Nutrition Recording and Reporting is still below 80 percent where the number of toddlers measured in 2021 has only reached 78.18%. Even the locus villages that have been fostered still have cases of stunting toddlers as well as villages outside the stunting locus set by the local government, this is also exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic conditions which directly affect the performance of stunting handling. Another thing that affects is the lack of a data system that is a common reference to carry out convergent actions at a predetermined locus, of course, after going through a strong analysis based on accountable toddler weighing data.

The problem of stunting cannot only be solved through nutrition programs, but must be integrated with other programs (Akombi et al., 2017; Dhami et al., 2019; Islam et al., 2020; Leroy & Frongillo, 2019). The complexity of the stunting problem and the large number of stakeholders involved in specific and sensitive nutrition interventions require coordinated and integrated implementation of priority targets. Convergence of stunting prevention is an intervention that is carried out in a coordinated, integrated, and jointly targeted priority target groups living in the smallest government areas. The implementation of interventions is carried out by integrating and harmonizing various resources starting from the planning and budgeting stages, implementation, to monitoring and evaluation. (Fernandez et al., 2019; Highfield et al., 2018).

The size and objectives of the policy must be clear and measurable so that it can be realized. In Regent Regulation No. 82 of 2021, targets are listed in the annex, namely goals and achievement indicators. Every policy must be supported by good resources, both Human Resources and Financial Resources. Human Resources is the adequacy of quality and quantity of implementors that can cover all target groups. Financial Resources include the availability of budget that supports the implementation of stunting prevention and control. The characteristics of the Implementing Body include bureaucratic structures, norms, and patterns of relationships that occur in the bureaucracy which will all affect policy implementation. The attitude of implementers towards stunting policies is very important, because if the attitude of implementers is willing to implement the policy, stunting will be easier to overcome. Communication between policy holders and target groups in order to implement policies to accelerate stunting prevention and control in Sinjai District must be carried out. The social, economic and political environment includes the social environment of toddlers in the community, because the social environment will affect the diet consumed by toddlers, besides that the social environment also affects the parenting style that will be received by toddlers which will affect the growth of the toddler. Environmental economic resources that can support the successful implementation of stunting policies, because with a good economy, toddlers can afford to buy and can consume healthy and nutritionally balanced foods so that stunting can be prevented. The political environment that supports the implementation of stunting policies, especially politics at the district level, is very influential on the implementation of stunting at the sub-district and village levels.

Shoelaces Action is a way for the Sinjai Regency Government to make efforts to handle stunting cases. Shoelaces Action is an acronym for Convergence Action for Cross-Sectoral Activities in Stunting Handling. The Regional Government of Sinjai Regency expressed its commitment to accelerate the prevention of stunting reduction. So each regional organization has its own role according to the programs and activities that have been prepared in handling stunting. So it's like a shoestring that has different directions and shapes, but the goal is the same, namely to reduce stunting in Sinjai Regency. The implementation of the Shoelace Action is guided by established regulations and policies and its implementation is carried out in an integrated manner involving multi-sectors through synchronization across programs at the Central, Province, Regional and Village levels. On that basis, the Local Government of Sinjai Regency issues regulations or policies. There are several regulations that have been issued by the Sinjai Regency Government, namely Regent Regulation Number 10 of 2020 concerning Prevention and Handling of Stunting in Villages, Regent Regulation Number 38 of 2020 concerning Maternal, Newborn, Infant and Toddler Health, Sinjai Regent Regulation Number 40 of 2021 concerning Prevention and Handling of Stunting in the Regions. In addition, Regent Regulation Number 82 of 2021 concerning Communication Strategies for Behavior Change in Stunting Prevention in the Regions.

## METHOD

The approach in this study uses a qualitative approach so it is also called descriptive-qualitative research. This research is a descriptive research with a qualitative approach. The focus of this research is the implementation of convergence actions of cross-sectoral activities in handling stunting.

The data collection technique used was in the form of interviews and documentation. The specified information is the parties directly involved in the implementation of convergence actions of cross-sectoral activities in handling stunting in Sinjai Regency. In its implementation, this research uses the key person technique. The informants in this study were the Head of the Sinjai District Health Office, to the Sinjai District Social Office, the Head of Sinjai District Public Works and Public Housing Office, the Head of the Sinjai District Food Security Office, the Head of the Regional Development Planning Agency of Sinjai Regency, to the Sinjai Regency Village Community Empowerment Office, Head of the Family Welfare Empowerment Drive Team of

Sinjai Regency, Head of the Economic and Natural Resources, Section of the Regional Secretariat of Sinjai Regency, Village Head who is the locus of stunting handling in Sinjai Regency, and mother of parents of stunted toddlers who receive family hope Program assistance. The data obtained were analyzed using the Miles et al model, (2020) which consists of data collection, data condensation, presentation, and inference.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Regional Government of Sinjai Regency as the highest policy maker in the Sinjai Regency area always provides good services to the community as stated in the vision and mission of the Regional Government of Sinjai Regency. This is in line with various innovations created and implemented by the Regional Government of Sinjai Regency, one of these innovations is Shoelace Action which is an acronym for Cross-Sectoral Activities Convergence Action in Stunting Handling. Shoelaces Action is an effort by the Sinjai Regency Government to collaborate and integrate stunting prevention and handling based on the Decree of the Regent of Sinjai Number 258 of 2020 concerning the Coordination Team for the Acceleration of Stunting Prevention and Handling of Sinjai Regency. In this study, measurements were adjusted to the theory expressed by Van Metter & Van Horn (1975), which is anointed as follows:

### Size and Purpose of the Policy

Policy implementation is one of the processes of the public policy cycle (Sarihati & Santosa, 2021). The implementation of convergence of cross-sectoral activities in handling stunting in Sinjai Regency has gone well and smoothly. The efforts of the Regional Government of Sinjai Regency to reduce stunting rates are by the establishment of the Stunting Reduction Acceleration Team consisting of Regional Apparatus Offices or Organizations. So not only the health sector plays a role but other sectors also play a role. So it is called Shoelaces Action, which is an acronym for Convergence Action for Cross-Sectoral Activities in Stunting Handling. So each regional organization has its own role according to the programs and activities that have been prepared in handling stunting. So it's like a shoestring that has different directions and shapes, but the goal is the same, namely to reduce stunting in Sinjai Regency. The implementation of the Shoelace Action is guided by established regulations and policies and its implementation is carried out in an integrated manner involving multi-sectors through synchronization across programs at the Central, Province, Regional and Village levels.

The policy objective of convergence of cross-sectoral activities in handling stunting in Sinjai District, namely for the prevention and handling of stunting in a sustainable, synergistic, integrated, targeted manner by following the planning and budgeting cycle. This policy aims to provide legal certainty as a reference for stakeholders in planning and implementing stunting prevention and handling efforts in Sinjai Regency.

The law of Sinjai Regency has strengthened the legal basis for handling stunting with the issuance of Regent Regulation Number 10 of 2020 concerning the Prevention and Handling of Stunting in Villages, as well as Sinjai Regent Regulation Number 40 of 2021 concerning Stunting Prevention and Handling in this Region, showing that the Sinjai Regency Government is quite good in making concrete commitments in the implementation of stunting handling.

In connection with the establishment of stunting handling policies in Sinjai district, a cross-sectoral Stunting Reduction Acceleration Team has been formed based on Sinjai Regent Decree No. 258 of 2020 concerning the Establishment of a Coordination Team for the Acceleration of Stunting Prevention and Handling of Sinjai Regency, Regent Decree Number 441 of 2021 concerning the Establishment of a Coordination Team for the Acceleration of Stunting Prevention and Handling of Sinjai Regency in 2021, and Sinjai Regent Decree Number 363 of 2022 concerning the Establishment of a Team for the Acceleration and Handling of Stunting in Sinjai Regency in 2022.

Nutrition-sensitive interventions implemented by the Sinjai District Regional Apparatus are translated into activities as stated in the Sinjai District planning document. Service Coverage In the Stunting Reduction Priority Program, there are 20 indicators including sensitive and specific interventions, namely health service programs for adolescent girls, pregnant women, postpartum mothers and toddlers; Sanitation and proper drinking water sources, parenting patterns in early education and parenting, provision of social assistance in the National Health Insurance, Family Hope Program and Non-Cash Food Assistance programs, as well as village coverage that implements sustainable food house area.

In the implementation of sensitive and specific interventions, national achievement targets are set per service coverage indicator. Based on the results of the implementation of Sinjai Regency government service coverage which has been processed by the author from the results of primary data, the average

data is close to the achievement target, but there are still some service coverage that is still far below the target including pregnant women service coverage nutrition counseling target 90% achievement of 56.5%, household decent drinking water target 90%, achievement 76.3%, children participating in education of aged children dini target 90% achievement 100%, sustainable food house area village targets 100% achievement of 17.7%.

Based on interviews with informants, obtained information that the implementers, especially regional apparatus organizations, have understood and implemented the policy. Furthermore, this understanding is inseparable from the socialization carried out by each regional apparatus organization according to its main duties and functions. On the other hand, stunting socialization activities to be disseminated in the community are also hampered, due to restrictions on gathering and crowding.

The performance of policy implementation can be quantified from the dimensions and goal of policies that are logical with the socio culture at the policy selection level. When policy measures and objectives are too ideal (utopian), they will be difficult to realize (Martins & Skott, 2020; Mustafa et al., 2022; Sahabuddin et al., 2021). Van Meter & Van Horn (1975) suggest that to quantify the performance of policy implementation, have to, affirming specific standards and objectives that must be reached by policy implementers, policy performance is fundamentally a grading of the achievement of these standards and targets. This is in accordance with the results of the study (Peckham et al. (2022) that the support program prepared by the government does not guarantee that the policy can be implemented properly. However, future policy evaluation should include an examination of how implementation was, or was not supported, to fully understand the reasons for the policy's success and failure.

The size and objectives of the policy to accelerate stunting prevention and control in Sinjai Regency have been regulated in Sinjai Regent Regulation Number 10 of 2020 concerning Stunting Prevention and Handling in Villages and Sinjai Regent Regulation Number 40 of 2021 concerning Stunting Prevention and Handling in the Regions.

## Resources

The convergence of stunting handling acceleration is carried out in a coordinated and integrated manner, collectively targeting priority groups living in urban villages to overcome stunting. The implementation of specific and sensitive nutrition interventions is convergent, integrating and coordinating different resources to achieve stunting management goals.

The Regional Government of Sinjai Regency in implementing the Cross-Sectoral Activities Convergence Action policy in Stunting Handling has resources that are important calculations in the successful implementation of the cross-sectoral activity convergence action policy and resources that facilitate the implementation of the cross-sectoral activity convergence action policy in stunting handling which have been described as follows:

Resources that become important calculations in the successful implementation of the convergence action policy for cross-sectoral activities in handling stunting in Sinjai Regency, namely professional and trained Human Resources such as Village Officials, District Planning Teams, Human Development Cadres who come from Integrated Service Post cadres teachers or other health cadres Family Hope Companions, Community Health Center officers, village midwives, Integrated Service Post cadres, family planning officers and other field officers (health extension workers, community leaders, community organizations, professional organizations, agricultural extension workers, fisheries, and animal husbandry). In addition, the allocation of funds and facilities is also a resource that is an important calculation in handling stunting.

District planners, Human Development Cadres who come from Integrated Service Post cadres teachers or other health cadres Family Hope Companions, Community Health Center officers, village midwives, Integrated Service Post cadres, Family Planning officers and other field officers (health extension workers, community leaders, community organizations, professional organizations, agricultural extension workers, fisheries, and animal husbandry). In addition, the allocation of funds and facilities is also a resource that is an important calculation in handling stunting.

Less and less trained Human Resources can be an inhibiting factor in efforts to fulfill accurate data (Salam et al., 2014; Schultz, 1972) in the implementation of convergence actions of cross-sectoral activities in handling stunting in Sinjai District. It was also conveyed that increasing the role of human development cadres and optimizing non-government actors in Sinjai Regency are needed in efforts to overcome cross-sector stunting.

The power supply in the implementation of policies to accelerate stunting prevention and control in Sinjai Regency still needs to be improved. Especially related to the conditions of the Covid-19 pandemic that is being faced, human resources or human resources are limited. The condition of the Covid-19 pandemic has made many health workers

in charge of handling stunting, then switched to handling Covid-19 as well. The refocusing of the budget in each OPD to overcome Covid-19 has made several activities to accelerate stunting prevention and control need to adjust their implementation methods. In addition, the number of quality human resources, namely cadres and health workers who have been trained, is also still not optimal.

The Regent of Sinjai Regency as the person in charge delegates authority to the Community and Village Empowerment Office as the person in charge of community affairs and the village conducts guidance to the village in Human Development Cadres mobilization activities in the village. Based on data obtained from Sinjai Regent Regulation Number 10 of 2020, there are several activities that can be carried out in an effort to improve the quality of Human Resources including Training for Human Development Cadres at the District level, Socialization of Human Development Cadres to related cross-sectors and Making Decrees for Human Development Cadres.

Policy Implementation is a policy that has been carried out by administrative units by mobilizing their potential (Amalia, 2023). Policy resources must be available in order to expedite the administration of implementation of a policy (Abdullah, 2022; Muhtasom & Ab, 2019). These resources consist of funds or other incentives that can facilitate the implementation of a policy. The lack or limitation of funds or other incentives in policy implementation is a major contribution to the failure of policy implementation.

### **Characteristics of the executing agent**

The implementation of Standard Operating Procedures applied by agencies in convergence of cross-sectoral activities in handling stunting in Sinjai Regency has been implemented and is running well. Regarding cross-sectoral stunting handling, the Social Service implements nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including the poorest groups and by 2030 can achieve substantial coverage for poor and vulnerable groups such as the target number of households receiving conditional cash transfers/Family Hope Program. Furthermore, Social Services hopes to progressively achieve and maintain income growth of people below 40% of the population at a level higher than the national average such as the percentage of people living below the national poverty line by sex and population. Public Works and Spatial Planning Agency services related to handling stunting, for example the provision of daily drinking water needs,

namely the percentage of the number of residents who obtain basic daily drinking water needs. As well as the provision of domestic wastewater treatment services, namely the percentage of households that have proper sanitation. So that the Public Works And Public Housing Office must run a good data management system, namely Management Information System for Community-Based Water Supply and Sanitation Program, and appropriate and accurate activity reports. In addition, tiered reports are carried out from field officers on joint results carried out with related sectors such as the quality of food consumption indicated by the Food Hope Pattern achieving and the level of fish consumption, the prevalence of population with moderate or severe food insecurity, the prevalence of food insufficiency, the coverage of food security support infrastructure management groups fostered, the proportion of population with minimum calorie intake below 1400 kcal/day, and strengthening food reserves. The Regional Planning and Development Agency as an auxiliary element of the regent in organizing planning in the regions. Sinjai conducts monitoring every month and then the results are followed up. The Regional Planning and Development Agency has tasks such as compiling the number of local government budget programs that must be completed related to cross-sector stunting convergence actions. The Community and Village Empowerment Office in handling stunting works according to indicators of priority development programs such as increasing the empowerment of rural communities, increasing community participation in developing villages, programs to increase the role of women in villages such as family empowerment and welfare, Integrated Service Post, self-help encouragement programs in reducing maternal and toddler mortality, improving infant nutrition, and immunization. In addition, the development program of rural economic institutions is monitoring the percentage of active rural economic institutions, development programs and utilization of natural resources and appropriate technology. In addition, the Economic and Natural Resources Section of the Regional Secretariat of Sinjai Regency is guided by the work objectives, namely policy activities, coordination, and evaluation as well as reporting in the economic field such as increasing agricultural output, food sources, livestock products, micro, small and medium enterprises. The component that I mentioned, will have an impact on people's income so that the standard of living in the health sector can be overcome such as the problem of stunting. The government of Bongki Lengkesa Village, East Sinjai District, also carries out SOPs,

namely planning, implementation, reporting and accountability.

Actors/agencies involved in convergence of cross-sectoral activities in handling stunting in Sinjai District, all levels of Sinjai District Government, starting from the Village Government level to the Regency level consisting of Regional Apparatus Organizations/ Agencies. District Governments, Village Governments, Village Governments, District Planning Teams, Family Empowerment and Welfare Driving Teams, Community Organizations, Youth Organizations, Professional Organizations and non-government sectors are also involved such as SOEs, private sector and universities.

Patterns of relations in related agencies in handling stunting in Sinjai Regency, namely intense communication and follow-up on developments or obstacles faced in handling stunting across sectors in Sinjai such as conducting formal and informal coordination meetings. All recommendations from the coordination meeting will be followed up so that any obstacles in implementing this policy can be corrected and produce solutions. Convergence of cross-sectoral activities in handling stunting is carried out in a coordinated manner. So it requires cooperation so that synchronization occurs according to their respective tasks in handling stunting.

The focus of attention on implementing agencies includes formal organizations and informal organizations that will be involved in implementing policies. This is important because the performance of policy implementation will be greatly influenced by the right characteristics and matches the implementing agents. This relates to the policy context that will be implemented in several policies required by strict and disciplined policy implementers. In other contexts, democratic and persuasive implementing agents are needed. In addition, the scope or area is an important consideration in determining the implementing agent of the policy.

The implementation of the stunting prevention acceleration policy which is the implementing body is all in the Sinjai Regent Decree Number 363 of 2022 concerning the Formation of a Team for the Acceleration of Stunting Reduction in Sinjai Regency that has supported stunting prevention and control activities in accordance with their respective main tasks and functions. This is because regional organization carry out stunting prevention and control activities that are commonly carried out but their activities are focused on village locations that have a high stunting prevalence.

## Attitudes/Tendencies of Executors

The response of the agency to the convergence of cross-sectoral activities in handling stunting in Sinjai District has been very good. All agencies support and are committed to the shoelace, which is a way for the Regional Government to make efforts to handle stunting cases.

Understanding of the content of the policy on convergence actions of cross-sectoral activities in handling stunting in Sinjai Regency can be well described by relevant agencies. The Regent's regulation on convergence of cross-sectoral activities is understood as a step by the Regional Government in the form of concern for the Regent and his staff in handling stunting. Regent Regulation Number 40 of 2021 concerning the prevention and handling of stunting in the regions, Regent Regulation Number 10 of 2020 concerning the prevention and handling of stunting in villages, Regent Regulation Number 38 of 2020 concerning the health of mothers, newborns, infants and toddlers. The policy can unite views, attitudes and steps to carry out stunting convergence actions. Regulations and policies for shoelaces action are regulated in Regent Regulation No. 40 of 2021 which contains the implementation of 8 convergence actions for stunting prevention and handling in regions ranging from the district, subdistrict, and village levels. In addition, the contents of the Regent Regulation also contain the duties and roles of each district, subdistrict, village government as well as across sectors such as community institutions, the business world, professional organizations, universities and the media in handling stunting. The duties and roles of Human Development Cadre are explained and entitled to an incentive of IDR 250,000, as well as operations and other needs adjusted to the financial condition of each village. The regent regulation also explains the data management system to ensure accurate information, village funds, village revenue and expenditure budget, convergence of stunting prevention and control in villages, first 1000 days of life, human development cadres, integrated service posts, early childhood education, healthy village houses and others.

The attitude of the implementers towards the acceleration and handling arrangements is arguably good and in accordance with the affairs of each regional organization in charge of the program and several activities have been carried out in an effort to deal with stunting.

Sinjai Regency is very focused on efforts to handle stunting, it can be seen from the results of the implementation of the stunting bootcamp, a commitment and agreement has been formed with the

Sinjai Regency Government with non-government institutions and the community in handling and overcoming stunting in Sinjai Regency signed by regional leadership officials, technical officials of regional organizations and non-government institutions.

The attitude of the implementer is said to be good if the executor or implementor has carried out the task in accordance with the procedure, it means that they have understood what is related to the program and what is the task of the implementer (Aarøe et al., 2021; Valle-Cruz et al., 2020)

### **Communication with Organization and Implementation Activation**

Communication built between agencies in the convergence of cross-sectoral activities in handling stunting in Sinjai Regency has been carried out well. The implementation of activities involved in the convergence of cross-sectoral activities in handling stunting in Sinjai Regency, so far all sectors play an active role and synergize with each other and are committed to reducing stunting rates in Sinjai Regency.

The implementation of stunting reduction is a joint obligation across fields, not just one field. Therefore, it is expected that there will be cross-sectoral groups carrying out Reconciliation Activities.

The Sinjai Regency government will together confirm, syncing, and synergize the results of the situation analysis and draft activity plan from the regional organization in charge of services in Sinjai district with the results of community participatory planning carried out through development planning deliberations sub-districts and villages in efforts to overcome stunting in focus locations.

In efforts to overcome stunting, the commitment of each agency is needed in handling it, sectoral ego is one of the things that become a problem in each region, in this case the Sinjai district government is still considered necessary to improve sectoral coordination in handling stunting.

Communication strategies in stunting reduction campaigns must be in accordance with the segmentation of stunting handling targets as their audience. Communication between regional organization in Sinjai Regency went quite well based on the results of primary data obtained, there was a massive campaign for efforts to reduce stunting at the community level and there was communication on behavior changes carried out by the team continuously and monitoring behavior changes. The strategy is not fully governed by proper and steady correspondence with the strategy

executor. In addition, coordination of meetings related to strategy implementation must continue to be carried out and improved.

With the issuance of Sinjai Regent Regulation No. 10 of 2020 concerning Stunting Prevention and Handling in Villages and Sinjai Regent Regulation No. 40 of 2021 concerning Stunting Prevention and Handling in the Regions, it is the basis for the Sinjai Regency government to intervene jointly across programs through 8 (eight) Convergence actions which are instruments in the form of activities carried out to improve integrated stunting handling interventions by cross-sectoral systematically and sustainably in handling stunting in Sinjai District.

Communication between regional organizations in Sinjai District has not been going well. The condition of the Covid-19 pandemic has changed the method of communication and coordination directly or offline to online or online. Communication between regional organizations can be carried out by utilizing existing technology such as telephone and online meeting applications. Although most communication is now via phone or zoom without face-to-face, and if there are documents needed related to stunting, regional organizations usually send via WhatsApp or email. The amount of communication via WhatsApp or email is not routine or targeted, adjusted to the needs needed by the Regional Development Planning Agency as the head of the stunting task force.

If there is no clarity and consistency and uniformity with a standard and policy objective, then the standard and policy objectives are difficult to achieve (Dwiwarman, 2021; Maldun et al., 2014). Policy implementers can find out what is the hope of them and know what to do. In a public organization, local government for example, communication is often a difficult and complex process. The process of transferring news down within an organization or from one organization to another, and to other communicators, is often disrupted whether intentional or unintentional. If different sources of communication provide unequal interpretations of standards and objectives, or the same sources of information provide conflicting interpretations, then at some point policy implementers will find it more difficult to implement a policy intensively.

### **Economic, Social, and Political Environment**

In the implementation of stunting handling policies in Sinjai Regency, the first thing to do is the commitment of the local government to be able to jointly accelerate efforts to handle stunting. The local government validates, synchronizes, and synergizes the results of the situation analysis and the draft

action plan of the regional organization in charge of the district/city office with the results of participatory community planning carried out by sub-districts and villages development planning deliberation forum.

The current program of activities is very varied and targets specific and sensitive interventions. In the implementation of the stunting reduction, the budget becomes the main factor to implement the planned program of activities in each regional apparatus in accordance with its main tasks and functions.

Based on the data obtained from the implementation of stunting crackdown in Sinjai Regency, it can be seen that Economic, Social Conditions are reflected in the planned planning and budgeting process. The amount of the budget through the Regional Budget and Special Allocation Fund in the implementation of stunting handling based on the sub-activities of each regional organization.

The social, economic and political environment, especially the social environment, is very influential during this pandemic, interaction between people is limited, because they have to implement physical distancing, the economic environment is also very influential, many traders whose selling hours are limited, thus affecting income and affecting people's purchasing power towards purchasing nutritious foodstuffs. Even in the political environment, the government is prioritizing the decline in Covid-19 cases compared to stunting cases.

Policy implementation in basic is not only restricted to the process of implementing a policy but also include the actions or behaviors of individuals and government and private groups, as well as administrative bodies or bureaucratic units responsible for implementing programs in achieving goals, but also observes various political, social, economic forces that have an influence on the targets to be achieved. Thus, policy implementation is intended to understand what happens after a program is formulated, as well as what impact it has on that policy program (Badura et al., 2021; Padatu & Akib, 2018).

In an effort to achieve successful policy implementation, it is influenced by social, political and economic conditions that include environmental economic resources, interest groups that provide support, the characteristics of the participants, and the nature of public opinion. The social environment is very necessary to support the success of policy implementation, because the existence of a policy in the community needs to get support from the social environment. Political interests that hinder a policy will have an influence on policy implementation. These interests can be both drivers and obstacles to successful policy implementation

## CONCLUSION

Based on the results of interviews with informants, it was found that the implementers, especially regional apparatus organizations, had understood and implemented the policy. The power supply in the implementation of policies to accelerate stunting prevention and control in Sinjai Regency still needs to be improved. Especially related to the conditions of the Covid-19 pandemic that is being faced, human resources or human resources are limited. Related to the characteristics of the executing agent, it has supported stunting prevention and control activities in accordance with their main duties and functions. This is because local organizations carry out stunting prevention and control activities that are commonly carried out but their activities are focused on village locations that have a high stunting prevalence. Then regarding attitudes/tendencies of executors a commitment and agreement has been formed with the Sinjai Regency Government with non-government institutions and the community in handling and overcoming stunting in Sinjai Regency signed by regional leadership officials, technical officials of regional organizations and non-government institutions. Communication between regional organizations in Sinjai District has not been going well. The condition of the Covid-19 pandemic has changed the method of communication and coordination directly or offline to online or online. Communication between regional organizations can be carried out by utilizing existing technology such as telephone and online meeting applications. Although most communication is now via phone or zoom without face-to-face, and if there are documents needed related to stunting, regional organizations usually send via WhatsApp or email. The amount of communication via WhatsApp or email is not routine or targeted, adjusted to the needs needed by the Regional Development Planning Agency as the head of the stunting task force. The social, economic and political environment, especially the social environment, is very influential during this pandemic, interaction between people is limited, because they have to implement physical distancing, the economic environment is also very influential, many traders whose selling hours are limited, thus affecting income and affecting people's purchasing power towards purchasing nutritious foodstuffs. Even the political environment of the government is prioritizing the decline in Covid-19 cases compared to stunting cases. Therefore, it is important to strengthen coordination and communication between regional organizations in an effort to

handle stunting and efforts to improve the quality of human resources and strengthen target data so that in determining programs to be more precise, effective and efficient. In addition, cross-sectoral support, regional innovation in handling stunting, massive socialization to all parties about stunting and who must play a role in handling stunting.

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