Analysis of Multistake holder Views on Convergence efforts To Reduce Stunting in Majene Regency

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Abstract: This study aims to analyze multi-stakeholder views on convergence efforts to reduce stunting in Majene Regency. Although various cross-sector interventions have been carried out, the reduction of stunting prevalence in this area has not reached the expected target. The research method used is a qualitative approach with in-depth interview techniques. The research informants consisted of leaders of regional apparatus organizations (OPD) and related parties involved in the stunting handling program. The results of the study show that the performance of human resources (HR) in Majene Regency plays an important role in the success of the convergence of stunting reduction. However, the lack of coordination between OPDs and sectoral egos is the main obstacle in the effectiveness of program implementation. In addition, the Stunting Reduction Acceleration Team (TPPS) has a strategic role in coordinating and implementing programs at the district level, but it needs to strengthen advocacy and support from regional leaders. This research is expected to provide deeper insights into the factors that affect the effectiveness of stunting reduction programs, as well as recommendations to increase cross-sector collaboration in an effort to achieve the set targets.

Keywords: Multistakeholder View, Convergence of Stunting Reduction

I.   Introduction

Stunting is a serious health problem that is still widely encountered in Indonesia, especially in areas with high poverty rates and limited access to health services. Stunting itself is a condition of failure to grow in children due to chronic malnutrition, which occurs during the first 1000 days of life, starting from pregnancy to two-year-old children. The impact is not only limited to physical growth, but also affects the child's cognitive development, which can ultimately hinder future economic and social potential. Therefore, reducing the stunting rate is one of the national priorities that the government continues to encourage. One of the regions that faces major challenges in handling stunting is Majene Regency in West Sulawesi.

In Majene Regency, the phenomenon related to the prevalence of stunting is still quite high even though various intervention programs have been implemented, such as improving maternal and child health services, providing additional food, and improving clean water and sanitation infrastructure. However, the results of these efforts have not been optimal. This can be seen from the results of the SSGI survey in 2022, which is 40.6% and the results of the SKI in 2023, which is 30.4%. Likewise, the results of ePPGBM data where the prevalence of stunting in Majene Regency in 2022 is 31.10% and in 2023 it will increase to 34.70%, this is still far from the local government's target stated in the Majene Regency RPJMD, which is 23.08% in 2023. One of the factors causing this is the approach that is still sectoral, where stunting handling programs run separately in various agencies and institutions, so that the collaboration between parties that should be established has not been carried out properly. For this reason, a convergence approach involving various stakeholders or multistakeholders is an important step to be taken to harmonize all existing businesses.

Convergence in handling stunting refers to efforts to unite various cross-sector interventions with the aim of increasing the effectiveness and sustainability of the program. This approach involves various parties, including the central and local governments, the private sector, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), academics, and the community. In Majene Regency, convergence is urgently needed considering the complexity of the factors that cause stunting, such as poverty, limited access to health services, and lack of nutritional knowledge among the community. However, the implementation of this convergence still faces a number of challenges, ranging from differences of views among stakeholders to limited resources.

Involving various stakeholders in convergence efforts is a strategic step that is indispensable to reduce stunting rates in Majene Regency. The local government through the Stunting Reduction Acceleration Team or TPPS as the main coordinator needs to integrate existing programs and ensure adequate budget allocation. The private sector can play a role through corporate social responsibility (CSR) programs, while NGOs focus on education and counseling to the community. Academics can provide in-depth research-based input, and local communities are expected to play an active role in carrying out a healthy lifestyle and improving childcare. While this multistakeholder approach offers great potential, various obstacles still need to be overcome. One of them is the difference in priorities between stakeholders, which sometimes makes collaboration not run smoothly. On the other hand, budget and infrastructure constraints in Majene are also obstacles that require more attention, especially in attracting more support from the private sector and donor agencies.

With the active involvement and synergy of all parties, Majene Regency has the opportunity to achieve a significant reduction in stunting rates. This convergent approach involving the views and roles of various parties is expected to be able to bring sustainable change, so that children in Majene Regency can grow up healthy and have a brighter future.

The existence of this sub-optimal success shows that there are factors that still hinder the effectiveness of the interventions that have been running. Limited coordination between sectors, disagreements in implementation in the field, and lack of synergy between programs often lead to interventions that are not on target. In addition, Majene's local characteristics, such as regional accessibility and the economic condition of the community, also make it difficult to achieve the stunting reduction target. Therefore, concrete steps are needed to analyze more deeply the factors that are obstacles to the implementation of stunting reduction programs, as well as explore the views of various stakeholders to strengthen a more effective and sustainable convergence approach.

Several concepts were compiled in the study on "Analysis of Multistakeholder Views on Convergence Efforts to Reduce Stunting in Majene Regency" because although many studies have discussed stunting reduction strategies, most of the literature focuses on separate sectoral intervention efforts, such as improving nutrition, improving access to health services, and public education. However, a truly integrated approach or convergence involving multiple stakeholders is still rarely discussed in depth. The existing literature tends to separate the roles of the government, NGOs, the private sector, and the community, without examining how the synergy between them can strengthen the results of the intervention. Thus, there is a need to further explore how the views, support, and roles of each party can be integrated to create more effective and sustainable stunting reduction strategies.

In addition, there are gaps in studies that discuss specific local contexts, such as Majene Regency which has unique characteristics both in terms of social, economic, and geographic. Existing research is often a national generalization without considering local dynamics and the specific challenges faced by the region. This demonstrates the need for research that focuses more on multistakeholder views at the local level and how local factors affect the implementation of convergence efforts. Thus, this study is expected to close the gap in the literature on the convergence of stunting interventions by paying attention to the views of various stakeholders in Majene Regency.

In several previous studies, stunting reduction efforts have been discussed from the perspective of sectoral interventions carried out by the government, but there is still a lack of in-depth exploration of cross-sector collaboration in a convergence approach. Research by Hartanto (2019) entitled "The Effectiveness of Supplementary Feeding Programs on Stunting Reduction in Indonesia" shows that intervention programs in the form of supplementary feeding can indeed have a positive impact, but these impacts are often limited and not

comprehensive without integration with other programs, such as sanitation improvement and health education. Another study by Kusumaningrum (2021) entitled "Analysis of Nutrition and Health Programs in Handling Stunting in Rural Indonesia" also emphasizes the importance of improving coordination between the central and local governments, but this study has not specifically highlighted the important role of multistakeholders such as the private sector and non-governmental institutions.

These studies provide important understanding, but there is still a research gap in the context of convergence of interventions involving all parties, especially in local contexts such as Majene Regency. Research that focuses on the views and roles of multistakeholders at the regional level, as raised by Wibowo (2020) in his research entitled "Community Involvement in Stunting Management: A Case Study in East Nusa Tenggara", concludes that active community participation is crucial, but there are still challenges in uniting the vision and mission of various related parties. However, Wibowo's research highlights more of the role of society without paying close attention to the views of the private sector and academics. Therefore, research related to multistakeholder views in the convergence of stunting reduction in Majene Regency is important to fill this gap, in order to understand how the involvement of all parties can be optimized to effectively reduce the prevalence of stunting.

In addition, a study by Nurhayati (2022) titled "Mapping the Role of Cross-Sectors in Stunting Reduction in Disadvantaged Areas" emphasizes that collaboration between sectors, including the government, the private sector, and NGOs, is the key to the success of stunting management. The results of this study show that despite joint efforts, the lack of effective communication between stakeholders often hinders the achievement of optimal results. Nurhayati also underlined the importance of continuous monitoring and evaluation so that each party can know their respective roles and responsibilities. However, the study did not specifically examine convergence in different local contexts, including in areas such as Majene Regency, where geographical challenges and accessibility play an important role in the success of the intervention. Therefore, research that focuses more on analyzing multi-stakeholder views in Majene Regency is needed to answer region-specific challenges and formulate more comprehensive and targeted strategies in reducing stunting.

Problem Formulation

The formulation of the problem in the study entitled Analysis of Multistakeholder Views on Convergence Efforts to Reduce Stunting in Majene Regency is as follows:

1. How is the performance of human resources (HR) in contributing to convergence efforts to reduce stunting in Majene Regency?
2. What are the factors that hinder the effectiveness of cross-sector convergence in reducing stunting in Majene Regency?
3. What is the role of the Stunting Reduction Acceleration Team (TPPS) in coordinating and implementing programs at the district level?

II.   Research Methods

This study uses a qualitative approach with the narrative explanation method, which aims to explain in detail the experiences and views of the informants related to efforts to reduce stunting in Majene Regency. The research location focuses on the Stunting Reduction Acceleration Team (TPPS) in Majene Regency, with the research implementation time in 2024. The researcher uses the purposive sampling method, which is a sample selection technique based on the researcher's consideration of who is considered the most relevant and representative for the purpose of the research. This technique refers to a study by Nur Padilah Amin et al (2023), which emphasizes the importance of sample selection based on special criteria.

The informants in this study were divided into two main groups. The first group is a key informant, consisting of leaders of regional apparatus organizations who are members of the Majene Regency TPPS, considering their strategic role in the implementation of stunting reduction policies. The second group is **ordinary informants**, which include various other parties who are involved in the implementation of stunting interventions in the area or can also be called technical implementers in the field. Information from the informants was collected through in-depth interviews, which aimed to explore their views, experiences, and evaluations of existing stunting

interventions. The instruments used in this process include interview guidelines, observation sheets, and documentation.

To analyze the collected data, this study uses three main stages of analysis that are carried out simultaneously, namely data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing or verification. Data reduction is carried out by simplifying and selecting relevant information, while data presentation involves organizing data systematically to make it easier to analyze. The last stage, drawing conclusions and verification, aims to compile valid and reliable findings based on the data that has been analyzed.

III. Result

Based on the results of interviews with various stakeholders in Majene Regency, a number of important findings related to the convergence of stunting reduction have been identified. In the Food Security sector, the informant emphasized the need to focus on analyzing the performance of human resources (HR) at the village level, especially the nutrition implementation team (TPG). According to him, this analysis is important because the focus of convergence efforts is on implementation in the village, which is the spearhead of policy implementation. In addition, he also underlined that convergence has so far focused more on specific interventions in the health sector, while sensitive interventions from the non-health sector, such as food security, also play an important role in stunting prevention.

Meanwhile, informants in the village government sector highlighted the performance of the Stunting Reduction Acceleration Team (TPPS) at the district level which is still not optimal, due to a lack of coordination and the existence of sectoral egos between regional apparatus organizations (OPD). He argued that this obstacle slowed down the achievement of the stunting reduction target, so advocacy at the high leadership level was needed to strengthen synergy between OPDs in Majene Regency. An informant from P3MD Experts, added that the performance of human resources or cadres in the village also needs to be optimized. According to him, it is important to clarify the criteria for selecting villages that are the locus of the research, so that the recommendations given by P3MD can be more on target. He also emphasized that Majene Regency has received a good performance assessment from the Ministry of Villages, so this research is expected to produce more specific and applicable recommendations.

In addition, sensitive interventions from the Marine and Fisheries sector, explained that his agency has carried out various interventions, such as the "Gemar Ikan" activity which focuses on education and socialization of fish consumption in stunting locus villages. However, he admitted that the number of fisheries extension workers in Majene is still limited, only 7 people for the entire district, which makes this effort not optimal. According to him, villages that have successfully implemented stunting convergence can be used as a pilot for other villages, in order to accelerate the implementation of the program at the local level.

In terms of health, the information collected by the researcher emphasizes that although Majene Regency has made various intervention efforts, there is a disparity between the results of the evaluation of the Audit Board (BPK) and the regional performance assessment. He proposed the need for further analysis related to the budget allocation that is right on target. In addition, he also noted that the form of assistance provided by OPD is still limited to stimulus, so it is hoped that it can be implemented more widely by families at risk of stunting. In terms of regional planning and coordination within the district TPPS, it was revealed that Majene Regency experienced a significant decrease in stunting prevalence in 2023, by 10.2%. This decline reflects the results of interventions carried out in recent years. However, it also emphasizes the importance of optimizing human resource performance in the field and the preparation of clear and applicable work guidelines, which can be developed into digital applications to facilitate the implementation of cadre duties in the village.

Informants from the Population Control and Family Planning Office, also provided input related to human development cadres or KPM and also family assistance teams or TPK who are engaged in villages often change, so that their competence is uneven. He highlighted that new KPM and TPK cadres often do not have the same training as previous cadres, which has an impact on performance in the field. P3MD Expert, said that there is often miscommunication in the implementation of stunting crackdowns, where district stunting crackdowns are often carried out before stunting crackdowns in villages. He recommended that local governments need to better

understand the flow of convergence planning and scheduling so that the convergence stages can be carried out comprehensively.

Overall, the results of this study emphasize the need to strengthen cross-sector coordination, improve human resource performance at the district to village level, and involve sensitive interventions from the non-health sector in reducing stunting. The resulting recommendations are expected to be able to provide concrete solutions for TPPS Majene Regency in optimizing the convergence of stunting reduction effectively and sustainably.

IV. Discussion

Based on the results of in-depth interviews with stakeholders in Majene Regency, it can be seen that the challenges in efforts to reduce stunting not only lie in the implementation of the program, but also in cross-sector coordination and optimization of human resources (HR) in districts and villages. Each stakeholder has a different view of the factors that hinder stunting reduction and provides valuable perspectives on the improvements needed.

1. **Human Resources (HR) Performance in Stunting Reduction Convergence in Majene Regency**

   The performance of human resources, in this case TPPS from districts to villages, plays a central role in the success of the stunting reduction convergence program in Majene Regency. Based on interviews with informants met by the researcher, the analysis of human resource performance, especially the Nutrition Implementation Team (TPG), TPK and KPM, is very important to find out the effectiveness of the programs implemented. This study shows that human resource performance must be measured comprehensively, considering that they are the spearhead in the implementation of interventions in the field. The skills, knowledge, and motivation of cadres greatly influence the success of interventions aimed at preventing and reducing stunting.

   In addition, an informant from P3MD emphasized the importance of a continuous training process for cadres. The selection of the right cadre and good training will produce individuals who are competent in carrying out their duties. Lack of understanding and lack of training for cadres often results in less effective programs. Therefore, strengthening human resource capacity at the district to village levels, including the provision of clear work guidelines and adequate resources, must be the main focus in efforts to reduce stunting.

   Furthermore, the results of this study also show that the use of technology, such as existing digital-based applications, can improve HR performance. With this application, cadres can access the information and guidelines needed in the implementation of the program, as well as report in real-time. This not only increases transparency but also allows for periodic evaluations of their performance. Thus, an effective and targeted improvement in human resource performance is expected to contribute significantly to reducing the prevalence of stunting in Majene Regency.

2. **Factors Inhibiting the Effectiveness of Cross-Sector Convergence in Stunting Reduction in Majene Regency**

   The factors that hinder the effectiveness of cross-sector convergence in reducing stunting in Majene Regency are complex and diverse. One of the main problems is the lack of coordination between regional apparatus organizations (OPDs). Information collected through the village community government office, stated that strong sectoral egos among OPDs caused a lack of synergy in the implementation of the program. Each OPD tends to focus on its own duties and responsibilities, so that the common goal of reducing stunting cannot be achieved optimally. This poor coordination results in overlapping programs and wasted resources.

   In addition, the limitation of human resources in each OPD is also an obstacle. For example, information obtained from the Marine and Fisheries Service stated that the limited number of fisheries extension workers was not enough to carry out the "Gemar Ikan" program to the maximum. This shows that to achieve the expected results, it is necessary to strengthen human resources in all sectors that play a role in stunting interventions. In addition, the lack of advocacy at the high leadership level to strengthen collaboration between OPDs also hinders convergence efforts. Without the support and strengthening of regional leaders, stunting reduction programs will be difficult to implement properly.

Another factor that is no less important is the low public understanding of the stunting issue and the importance of interventions carried out. Without awareness and active participation from the community, it will be difficult for the programs to run effectively. Therefore, a good communication and education strategy is needed so that the public can understand their role in supporting stunting reduction. By overcoming these various inhibiting factors, it is hoped that the effectiveness of cross-sector convergence in reducing stunting in Majene Regency can increase significantly.

3. **The Role of the Stunting Reduction Acceleration Team (TPPS) in Coordination and Implementation of Programs at the District Level**

TPPS has an important role in coordinating and implementing stunting reduction programs in Majene Regency. As an institution formed specifically to deal with stunting problems, TPPS is responsible for integrating various cross-sectoral interventions. However, the results of the interviews show that TPPS faces a number of challenges in carrying out its duties. Information obtained from the population control and family planning office noted that there is often uncertainty in the implementation of the program due to the change of cadres which makes performance inconsistent. This shows the need for a better cadre management system so that each team member can function optimally.

In addition, information collected from the Regional Planning and Development Agency underlines the importance of strengthening communication and coordination between TPPS and other OPDs. Stunting stunting drills that are carried out at the district level must be carried out after all stunting at the village level is completed so that there is harmony between the needs in the field and the programs being run. By strengthening communication and creating synergies between the parties involved, TPPS can be more effective in formulating and implementing appropriate strategies for stunting reduction. Good coordination efforts can also help reduce program overlap and maximize the use of existing resources.

In addition, TPPS must be active in advocating for policies that support stunting reduction at the district level. This effort is very important so that existing programs can get adequate support from local governments. For example, there needs to be advocacy to regional leaders to allocate a larger budget for programs related to stunting reduction. By increasing the role and effectiveness of TPPS, it is hoped that convergence efforts in reducing stunting in Majene Regency can be more successful and have a significant positive impact on the community.

V.   Conclusion

Based on the discussion of the results above, the researcher can draw conclusions, namely:

1. The performance of Human Resources (HR) in the Convergence of Stunting Reduction in Majene Regency is a crucial factor in the success of the convergence efforts to reduce stunting in Majene Regency. Research by Rahmawati (2020) shows that the success of the intervention is highly dependent on the competence of cadres in the field. In this context, strengthening human resource capacity through continuous training is a must. This is important to ensure that each cadre has adequate knowledge and skills in carrying out programs related to stunting handling.

   In addition, a comprehensive performance evaluation of human resources is also needed so that the programs implemented can run effectively. The results of interviews with stakeholders underscore the need for an in-depth analysis of the contributions of each HR segment involved. With this effort, it is hoped that human resources can play an optimal role in the implementation of the program, which in turn will contribute to reducing the prevalence of stunting in the area.

2. Inhibitory Factors in Cross-Sector Convergence

   The findings from the study show that the lack of coordination between OPDs and sectoral egos is the main obstacle in the effectiveness of stunting reduction convergence. Research by Sari et al. (2022) identified that misunderstanding and lack of communication between sectors can hinder the synergy needed in the implementation of programs related to stunting handling. With this situation, various programs that should complement each other cannot function optimally.

To achieve the stunting reduction target, better collaboration efforts and effective communication among OPDs are needed. Strengthening the coordination mechanism and discussion forum between OPDs will be a strategic step in overcoming this problem. By establishing good cooperation, each OPD can work in harmony and support each other, so that existing programs can be more integrated and have a significant impact in efforts to reduce stunting rates in Majene Regency.

3. The Role of the Stunting Reduction Acceleration Team (TPPS)

TPPS has a strategic role in the coordination and implementation of stunting reduction programs. Research by Hendrawati (2021) emphasizes the importance of TPPS in integrating cross-sectoral interventions. The results of the interviews show that TPPS must be active in strengthening coordination between various OPDs and other stakeholders, as well as ensuring that each program implemented can be aligned with the needs in the field. By strengthening the function of TPPS, it is hoped that existing programs can be more targeted and effective in tackling stunting.

More than that, strengthening advocacy and support from regional leaders is the key to the success of the program's implementation. With political commitment and adequate resource allocation, TPPS can more easily carry out its duties in carrying out stunting reduction interventions. The active involvement of TPPS in policy discussions and budget allocation will have a more positive impact in overcoming the stunting problem in Majene Regency, as well as ensuring the sustainability of the programs that have been launched.

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