



I POLICY STRATEGY FOR STUNTING MITIGATION WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF ACHIEVING THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (A STUDY IN BAYUMUNDU VILLAGE, KADUHEJO DISTRICT, PANDEGLANG REGENCY)

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Abstract

Stunting remains a major public health issue hindering the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly Goal 2 (Zero Hunger) and Goal 3 (Good Health and Well-Being). Previous studies have mostly focused on nutrition and health aspects, while this research addresses the research gap by analyzing policy strategies based on cross-sectoral collaboration at the village level. The purpose of this study is to identify and analyze stunting mitigation policy strategies within the framework of achieving the SDGs in Bayumundu Village, Kaduhejo District, Pandeglang Regency. This research employs Collaborative Governance theory (Ansell & Gash, 2008) and SWOT analysis (Rangkuti, 2018) to map internal–external factors and assess the quality of multi-stakeholder collaboration. The study uses a qualitative descriptive approach, collecting data through interviews, observation, and documentation, with triangulation for data validation. The findings indicate that the main strengths of the strategy are community awareness campaigns and available health infrastructure, while the greatest opportunity comes from national policy and government support. However, weaknesses such as limited community understanding and threats such as socio-economic inequality remain significant challenges. The study concludes that the success of stunting mitigation strategies is strongly determined by actor synergy, facilitative leadership at the village level, and the utilization of national policy opportunities. It



recommends strengthening collaborative institutional design and leveraging health technologies to ensure program sustainability.

Keywords: Collaborative Governance, Stunting, SWOT Analysis, Sustainable Development Goals, Public Policy

Abstract

Stunting remains a public health problem that hinders the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly Goal 2 (Zero Hunger) and Goal 3 (Good Health and Well-Being). Previous studies have focused more on nutrition and health aspects, while this study fills the research gap by analyzing collaborative policy strategies across actors at the village level. The purpose of this study is to identify and analyze stunting prevention policy strategies within the framework of achieving the SDGs in Bayumundu Village, Kaduhejo District, Pandeglang Regency. The study uses the theory of Collaborative Governance (Ansell & Gash, 2008) and SWOT analysis (Rangkuti, 2018) to map internal and external conditions as well as the quality of multi-stakeholder collaboration. The research method is qualitative with a descriptive approach, through observation and documentation, as well as data validation through triangulation. The results of the study show that the main strengths of the strategy are public awareness campaigns and health infrastructure support, with the greatest opportunities coming from national policies and government support. However, weaknesses in the form of low public understanding and threats in the form of socio-economic inequality remain significant obstacles. The conclusion of the study confirms that the success of the stunting prevention strategy is largely determined by the synergy between actors, facilitative leadership at the village level, and the utilization of national policy opportunities. This study recommends strengthening the design of collaborative institutions and utilizing health technology to support the sustainability of stunting programs.

Keywords: SWOT Analysis, Collaborative Governance Public Policy, Stunting, Sustainable Development Goals

1. INTRODUCTION

Stunting is a crucial public health issue that is directly related to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly Goal 2 (Zero Hunger) and Goal 3 (Good Health and Well-Being). Stunting reflects a condition of child growth failure due to chronic malnutrition, recurrent infections, and lack of stimulation during the first 1,000 days of life (WHO, 2021). This condition not only affects physical development, but also cognitive development, productivity, and long-term human resource quality (Victora et al., 2021). In Indonesia, the prevalence of stunting decreased to 19.8% in 2024 according to the Indonesian Nutrition Status Survey (SSGI), but this figure is still above the maximum threshold of 20% set by the WHO (Health Development Policy Agency, 2025). Therefore, accelerating stunting prevention is an important strategy in sustainable development, because successful stunting reduction not only supports SDGs 2 and 3, but also has an impact on achieving other goals such as poverty eradication (SDG 1) and improving education (SDG 4).



Children who experience stunting will feel the effects both immediately and in the future. In the short term, it affects physical development, causing children to be shorter than their peers of the same age (Fitri et al., 2022). In addition, stunting can lower children's IQ by disrupting brain growth, which in turn affects cognitive development (Daracantika & Besral, 2021). At the same time, stunting makes children more likely to develop diabetes, obesity, cardiovascular disease, vascular disease, cancer, stroke, and age-related disorders (Kurniati et al., 2023). The quality of a nation's human resources also has a long-term impact on stunted children. The future of a nation lies in the hands of its children. A decline in the quality of human resources in the future is inevitable if stunting is not addressed immediately. (Fauziah et al., 2023a)

The latest data in 2023 shows that the global prevalence of stunting in children under five years of age remains quite high, with approximately 148.1 million children (or 22.3%) experiencing stunting in 2022. Most children affected by stunting live in Asia (52%) and Africa (43%) (WHO, 2023). Although stunting rates have declined over the past decade, global progress is considered slow and insufficient to achieve global nutrition targets for 2025 and 2030. It is estimated that the target of reducing the number of children experiencing stunting to 89 million by 2030 will be missed by 39.5 million children, with the majority of them in Africa (WHO, 2023). According to data from the 2024 Indonesian Toddler Nutrition Status Survey (SSGBI), the prevalence of stunting among toddlers in Indonesia declined from 2018 to 2023, from 30.8% to 17.8%, with a target of 14% for 2024 (Ministry of Health of the Republic of Indonesia, 2024).

Stunting in children is closely related to impaired brain development. Children who experience stunting usually have lower cognitive function, which impacts their future productivity potential and hinders their contribution to economic development (Ariani et al., 2021). Children who experience stunting are more susceptible to infectious diseases and have weaker immune systems (Sumartini, 2022). This poor health condition reduces their productivity as workers, which overall affects the country's economic growth. Stunting also impacts an individual's ability to compete in the job market. This can affect a country's competitiveness, especially in an era of knowledge- and skill-based economies (Hasibuan, 2022).

High-quality human resources are key to a country's economic development. When children experience stunting, their potential to contribute to important sectors such as technology, education, and health becomes limited (Kardina & Magriasti, 2023). By reducing the prevalence of stunting, countries can ensure that future generations are able to participate optimally in national development (Rini Puji Lestari et al., 2025). Stunting is not only a child health issue, but also a long-term development issue. Eradicating stunting is important to create a generation that is healthy, productive, and able to contribute to economic and social progress in the future (Pulungan, 2021).

Age, length of birth, and the availability of certain micronutrients (such as calcium, vitamin A, iron, and zinc) and macronutrients (such as protein and carbohydrates) all play a role in whether toddlers may experience stunting or not (Inna Natara et al., 2023). The level of protein adequacy is the main element responsible for this. (Fauziah et al.,



2023). An analysis conducted by Febrian and Yusran (2021) shows that the aspects that have an impact on the incidence of stunting or short stature are maternal knowledge, exclusive breastfeeding, and basic sanitation (Febrian & Yusran, 2021).

The environment and socioeconomic factors play an important role in exacerbating stunting (Tongkonoo et al., 2021). Children living in environments with poor sanitation, limited access to clean water, and a lack of health facilities are at higher risk of recurrent infections that worsen malnutrition (Pradana et al., 2023). In addition, socioeconomic aspects such as poverty, low education, and limited access to nutritious food also exacerbate stunting (Mappanyukki & Haeril, 2023). Poor families tend to be unable to provide adequate nutrition for their children, and limited access to preventive health services increases the risk of children experiencing growth disorders (Ayuningtyas et al., 2022). The combination of these factors causes a cycle of poverty and poor health to continue from generation to generation.

One of the national development goals outlined in the 2020–2024 National Medium-Term Development Plan is to address stunting. The government is targeting a reduction in stunting to 14% by 2024 (National Development Agency, 2021). The government has launched a large number of projects to address stunting and reduce its prevalence. The government's initiative aims to reduce the direct and indirect impacts of stunting, with a focus on specific dietary measures. Pregnant women, breastfeeding mothers, and infants aged 0-2 years are the main focus of this initiative, known as the First Thousand Days of Life (HPK) (Secretariat of the Vice President of the Republic of Indonesia, 2020). At the same time, adolescents, women of childbearing age, and children between 24 and 59 months of age are also key targets. (Widayatun, 2023a)

There will be obstacles to reducing stunting rates, therefore it is very important for the government, community, and commercial sector to work together in a cross-sectoral strategy (Widayatun, 2023b). Building better infrastructure, increasing community members' nutritional awareness, and expanding access to health care are top priorities (Bambang Eko Cahyono, 2022). To significantly reduce the prevalence of stunting and achieve the 14% target, which will ensure a healthy future for children in Indonesia, it is essential for stakeholders to work together and for policies to be implemented effectively. (Fauziah et al., 2023) Despite some successes in reducing stunting rates, there are still many obstacles to fully implementing these actions. These include a lack of synergy and integration between various sectors in terms of nutritional interventions, limited program capacity, and poor coordination in the convergence action itself (Rahmawati et al., 2024). There is no field order to implement convergence to reduce stunting in the regions, partly due to a lack of strong coordination and inadequate capacity. (Ridwan et al., 2021)

In the context of stunting prevention, the involvement of various actors is a necessity because this chronic nutritional problem is not only related to health aspects, but also food, education, and social development. Therefore, the Collaborative Governance theory proposed by (Ansell & Gash, 2008) is relevant to explain how the government, community, health workers, local organizations, and development partners can work together in a collaborative forum to achieve common goals. This theory emphasizes the importance of starting conditions, inclusive institutional design,



Facilitative leadership and a continuous dialogue process in building trust between actors. With this approach, stunting prevention policy strategies can be analyzed not only from a technical program perspective, but also from the quality of collaboration between stakeholders, thereby supporting the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly the target of reducing stunting by 2030.

The Pandeglang Health Office reports that the stunting rate in Pandeglang Regency is the highest in Banten Province. The 2022 Indonesian Nutrition Status Study (SSGI) states that the stunting rate in Pandeglang is 26.4% (Mardiana, 2025). Pandeglang is classified as a stunting locus according to the Minister of Home Affairs Instruction Number 440/1959/SJ dated March 20, 2018. The prevalence of stunting in Pandeglang is the highest in Banten Province, recorded at 39.8% in 2018 (Candarmaweni & Rahayu, 2020). Stunting hotspots in Pandeglang have been identified in ten villages in six subdistricts. In response to this situation, the Pandeglang Regency Government issued Pandeglang Regent Regulation No. 28 of 2019 concerning the Acceleration of Stunting Reduction in Pandeglang and established Regent Decree No. 440/Kep.265-Huk/2019 to form a Coordination Team for the Acceleration of Stunting Reduction in Pandeglang.

Based on this background, this study aims to identify and analyze stunting prevention policy strategies within the framework of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in Bayumundu Village, Kaduhejo Subdistrict, Pandeglang Regency. Using a SWOT analysis approach, this study will analyze the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats faced in implementing stunting prevention programs in the area. This SWOT analysis is expected to provide a deeper understanding of the internal and external factors that influence the success of human resource development programs. Based on the results of this analysis, the study aims to develop recommendations for strategies that can be implemented to improve the effectiveness of human resource development in overcoming stunting. Thus, it is hoped that this study can contribute significantly to national efforts to reduce the prevalence of stunting and improve the quality of life and welfare of future generations in Indonesia. It is hoped that the strategies developed in this study can be implemented not only in Pandeglang Regency, but also in other regions facing similar challenges in overcoming stunting. In this case, the results of this study can serve as practical guidelines for policy makers and health practitioners.

2. RESEARCH METHOD

This study used a qualitative method with a descriptive approach to understand the strategies for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in overcoming stunting in Pandeglang Regency, Kaduhejo District, Bayumundu Village. Data were collected through observation and documentation, involving posyandu cadres, village midwives, and PKK members in Pandeglang Regency, Kaduhejo District, Bayumundu Village. The analysis was conducted using the SWOT method to evaluate strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. (Rangkuti, 2018) explains that SWOT analysis is a strategic planning method used to evaluate Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats in an organization or program. This analysis helps determine the right strategy by optimizing strengths and opportunities and



minimizing weaknesses and threats. Data validity is ensured through triangulation by comparing information from various sources.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Internal Evaluation Matrix

The Internal Factor Evaluation Matrix (IFE) is a tool used in strategic management analysis to evaluate internal factors that affect an organization's performance. This matrix helps identify and evaluate an organization's internal strengths and weaknesses, thereby providing insight into the company's competitive position and capabilities. The Internal Factor Assessment System (IFAS) matrix is used to analyze internal influences that affect stunting eradication strategies in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

The weighting of internal elements was obtained through joint analysis by posyandu cadres, PKK members, and village midwives. This matrix summarizes the strengths and weaknesses of the internal environment that influence the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals in the context of stunting reduction strategies.

Table 1
Internal Evaluation Matrix Analysis

NO	INTERNAL FACTOR	WEIGHT	VALUE	SCORE WEIGHTED
STRENGTHS				
1	Public Awareness Campaign	0.2	4	0.8
2	Infrastructure Health that Available	0.15	3	0.45
3	Availability of health workers	0.15	3	0.45
4	Cross-Sector Support	0.1	2	0.2
	Amount	0.6		1.9
WEAKNESSES				
1	Gaps Access Services Health	0.1	2	0.2
2	Economic Inequality	0.1	2	0.2
3	Coordination that is Less Effective within the Region	0.05	1	0.05
4	Community understanding of stunting	0.15	3	0.45
	Number	0.4		0.9
TOTAL		1.00		2.8



Table 1 shows that the strength of the Strategy to Overcome Stunting in the effort to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals of Bayumundu Village, Kaduhejo District, Pandeglang Regency is that public awareness campaigns are the main strength with a score of 0.8. In second place is the available health infrastructure with a score of 0.45. Third is the availability of health workers with a score of 0.45, and fourth/last is with a score of 0.2.

Furthermore, the weaknesses are, in the first position, community understanding of stunting with a weighted score of 0.45, in the second position, the gap in access to health services with a weighted score of 0.2, in the third position, economic inequality with a weighted score of 0.2, and in the fourth or last position, ineffective coordination with a weighted score of 0.1. Overall, with an internal factor score of 2.8, this strategy has been quite successful in increasing public knowledge and utilizing strengths to overcome existing weaknesses.

External evaluation matrix

The External Factor Evaluation (EFE) Matrix is a tool used to analyze external factors that affect an organization or project. This matrix helps identify opportunities and threats in the external environment that may influence organizational strategy. (Fred R. David)

Table 2
External Evaluation Matrix Analysis

NO	INTERNAL FACTORS	WEIGHT	VALUE	SCORE WEIGHTED
OPPORTUNITIES				
1	Government Support and Policies National	0.235294	4	0.941176
2	Health Technology Development	0.176471	3	0.529412
3	Cooperation between parties outside the region	0.176471	3	0.529412
TOTAL		0.588235		2
THREATS				
1	Impact of the Economic Crisis or Pandemic	0.117647	2	0.235294
2	Socioeconomic Inequality	0.176471	3	0.529412
3	Lack of public awareness	0.117647	2	0.235294
TOTAL		0.411765		1
TOTAL EFFECT		1.00		3.00



Table 2 shows that the greatest opportunity in the Strategy to Overcome Stunting in Bayumundu Village, Kaduhejo Subdistrict, Pandeglang Regency is Government Support and National Policy with a weighted score of 0.941176. In second place is Health Technology Development with a weighted score of 0.529412. Third or last is Cooperation between parties outside the region with a weighted score of 0.529412.

Next, for the threat factor, in first place is Socio-Economic Inequality with a weighted score of 0.529412, in second place is the Impact of Economic Crisis or Pandemic with a weighted score of 0.235294, and in third or last place is Lack of Public Awareness with a weighted score of 0.235294. Overall, with an external factor score of 3.0, this strategy has been quite successful in increasing public knowledge and utilizing opportunities to overcome existing threats.

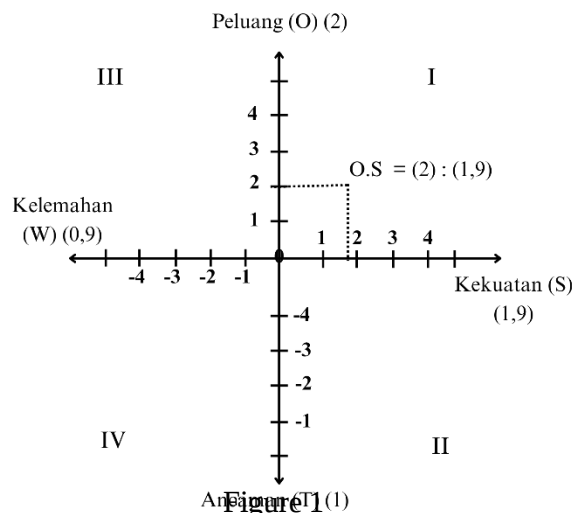


Figure 1
SWOT Analysis Quadrant Diagram for the Strategy to Address Stunting in Bayumundu Village

The analysis results place the position of the Strategy to Overcome Stunting in Bayumundu Village in Quadrant I of the SWOT analysis diagram. The position in Quadrant I indicates that the Strategy to Overcome Stunting in Bayumundu Village has great opportunities and strengths to utilize existing opportunities. This condition supports the implementation of a developing strategy. This does not rule out the possibility that the Strategy to Overcome Stunting in Bayumundu Village can be implemented even better.

Table 3.
SWOT Matrix

No	Internal	Strengths (S)	Weaknesses (W)
1		Awareness Campaign Community	Gaps in Access to Services Health
2		Health Infrastructure Available	Economic Inequality



3		Availability of / competent human resources	Ineffective Coordination within the Region
4		Cross-sector support	Community understanding regarding stunting
External Opportunities (O)			
		SO Strategy	WO Strategy
1	Government Support and National Policy	Conduct more massive socialization on stunting in remote areas	Encourage all community members to actively participate in health activities carried out by local institutions
2	Health Technology Development	Conducting education through social media or opening nutrition consultations via chat chat	Providing special assistance for pregnant and breastfeeding mothers in areas targeted for stunting eradication stunting
3	Collaboration between parties outside the region	Providing guidance in collaboration with educational and social institutions	Mobile community education so that communities have access to knowledge/information
Threats (T)			
		ST Strategy	WT Strategy
1	Impact of Economic Crisis or Pandemic	Developing local food security programs	Improving sanitation and access to clean water, building sanitation infrastructure, education on healthy lifestyles.
2	Socio-economic inequality	Skills training and economic empowerment	Provision of social assistance or more massive nutrition subsidy programs Massive
3	Lack of public awareness	The existence of education for pregnant women and breastfeeding, as well as nutrition education	The existence of public education programs for the community and training for families

Based on Table 3, it can be seen that various strategic issues can be identified to achieve the organization's goals in improving the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals in overcoming stunting. This strategy is designed to develop human resource excellence in Bayumundu Village, Kaduhejo District, taking into account existing internal and external conditions. The aim is to anticipate changes in these factors so that the strategy can be adjusted and remain relevant in facing emerging challenges.

Collaborative Governance in Stunting Prevention (Theory Ansel Ansell & Gash, 2008)

1. Starting Conditions

The findings show that the initial conditions for collaboration in Bayumundu Village were influenced by the national program to accelerate stunting reduction and the SDGs targets. The village government and health center staff were committed to reducing



stunting rates, but there is still a gap in terms of community trust in nutrition programs. Regulatory support factors, such as the Presidential Regulation on Accelerating Stunting Reduction, serve as initial capital that strengthens policy legitimacy, although limited human resources and funds at the village level remain an obstacle.

2. Institutional Design

From an institutional perspective, collaboration is facilitated through the formation of stunting prevention acceleration teams at the village level, involving village officials, posyandu cadres, PKK, community leaders, and health workers. Regular coordination meetings and integration with food and nutrition programs are important means of supporting strategy formulation. However, the results of the study show that the roles of each actor are not yet clearly defined, resulting in overlapping tasks and suboptimal utilization of the potential of local food MSMEs.

3. Facilitative Leadership

The leadership of village heads and health center staff plays an important role as facilitators of collaboration. Leadership that is able to connect various actors is a determining factor in maintaining program continuity. Interview results indicate that the openness of village heads in accepting input and the efforts of health workers in providing nutrition education are key to creating productive collaboration. However, limited managerial capacity at the village level means that facilitative leadership still needs to be strengthened through training and regional policy support.

4. Collaborative Process

The collaborative process is evident in posyandu activities, supplementary feeding programs, and child growth monitoring involving village cadres, community health centers, and families. Participatory dialogue has begun to grow, although it is not yet fully inclusive due to the minimal involvement of the private sector and academics. The process of trust-building continues, as evidenced by increased community participation in nutrition activities, but there are still challenges in maintaining consistency in commitment and coordination among actors, particularly in the management of village stunting data.

5. Synthesis

Based on the four Collaborative Governance indicators, it can be concluded that stunting prevention in Bayumundu Village has shown the development of a collaborative framework, although it is not yet fully optimal. The initial conditions supported by national policies and SDGs provide strong legitimacy, but institutional design and collaboration processes still need to be strengthened to be more inclusive. Facilitative leadership is the main driver, but consistency in coordination and clarity of roles among actors are critical factors that must be improved.

4. CONCLUSION

This study concludes that eradicating stunting in order to improve human resources is something that must be addressed. This is because superior human beings are born from individuals who are educated, well-nourished, and psychologically stable. Strategies for Overcoming Stunting in Human Resource Development



in Bayumundu Village effectively involves human resource competencies through close collaboration with the government and active promotion through education and counseling. The application of advanced technology is also necessary to support existing programs and ensure their sustainability.

SWOT analysis has proven to be a very useful tool in evaluating the internal and external conditions that affect the success of a program. This technique provides strategic insights that not only help understand market dynamics but also serve as a reflection for the community in managing human resources more effectively and efficiently. This study is in line with the findings of (Astuti et al., 2024), which emphasizes the importance of human resource development in improving the effectiveness of public health interventions, as well as supporting the study by (Pratiwi, 2023), which shows that SWOT analysis is a vital tool in formulating public health strategies.

Then, this study describes the aspects that are strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats to the stunting eradication strategy program. The biggest strength is the intense campaign to eradicate stunting in the community, which can erode the existing weakness, namely the lack of knowledge and understanding about stunting. This strategy also has considerable opportunities in terms of government support for stunting eradication. Stunting eradication is supported and there are policies in place from the central to regional levels. Of course, in implementing the program, there are challenges that must be faced, such as raising public awareness to participate individually in this large program.

This conclusion emphasizes the importance of a structured and well-integrated human resource development strategy, as well as the use of SWOT analysis as an effective evaluation tool in overcoming stunting. Through a deep understanding of the supporting and inhibiting aspects, efforts to address stunting can be carried out more effectively and have a positive and sustainable impact on the community.

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