



## CONVERGENCE IN STUNTING PREVENTION EFFORTS IN WOLOMARANG VILLAGE, WEST ALOK SUBDISTRICT, SIKKA REGENCY

Maria F. T. Sengga<sup>1\*</sup>, Laurensius P. Sayrani<sup>2</sup>, Hendrik Toda<sup>3</sup>, and Adriana R. Fallo<sup>4</sup>  
<sup>1,2,3,4</sup>Nusa Cendana University (Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, Nusa Cendana  
University, Kupang, Indonesia)

\*Corresponding Email: [annisengga26@gmail.com](mailto:annisengga26@gmail.com)

### ABSTRACT

*Stunting is a major nutritional problem that will have an impact on social and economic life in society. To accelerate the reduction of stunting, the government established a national strategy consisting of several pillars, one of which is convergence, coordination and consolidation. For this reason, handling and reducing stunting cannot be done sectorally but requires integration between specific interventions and sensitive interventions carried out by various sectors. This study aims to determine and analyze the process of implementing convergence in stunting prevention efforts in Wolomarang Village, West Alok District, Sikka Regency, through descriptive qualitative methods with data collection techniques in the form of interviews and documentation. The results of the study used five collaboration processes according to Ansell & Gash (2008: 558). Including Face-to-Face Dialogue, Building Trust, Commitment to the Process, Shared Understanding, Temporary Impact. Based on the results of research in the field, it shows that there is an increase in the stunting rate in Wolomarang Village. There are at least five things that become the basic problem, First; the budget is insufficient while the needs in overcoming stunting are very large. Second: food assistance programs and foster child programs that have not run optimally. Third; related to participation, in this case the lack of participation of sectors outside the health sector in minilokarya activities carried out at the sub-district level. Fourth, it is related to the lack of public awareness and participation in stunting. Fifth; related to the low economic level of most of the Wolomarang Village community.*

**Keywords:** (a) Convergence, (b) Stunting, (c) Collaboration, (d) Government, (e) intervention

### 1. INTRODUCTION

In realizing national development, especially in the health sector, development is directed at improving the degree of public health in order to create common goals of long-term national welfare and development. This is explained in Law Number 17 of 2007 concerning the National Long-Term Development Plan (RPJPN) stipulates that: "One of the national development goals to be achieved is to realize the competitiveness of the nation. Health and Nutrition Status is one of the important components in improving the quality of human resources in order to improve the nation's competitiveness, which is implemented in stages in accordance with the National Medium-Term Development Plan" (Gumelar, 2018). Nutrition is still a high problem, especially in Indonesia with the 5th highest incidence of stunting in the world (WHO, UNICEF, 2018). One of the indicators of successful health achievement in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is the nutritional status of children under five. Children under five are a group that is vulnerable to malnutrition, one of which is stunting (Rudmini, 2021). Stunting is a major nutritional

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problem that will have an impact on social and economic life in society. Stunting is one of the nutritional problems experienced by toddlers, where toddlers experience a condition of growth failure due to chronic malnutrition which is influenced by poor maternal parenting from the womb, especially in the first 1,000 days of life until the child is 2 years old so that the child is too short for his age (Rudmini, 2021). Stunting is one of the problems that is still being pursued in Indonesia. Data from the Ministry of Health's Basic Health Research (Riskesdas) in 2013 stated that the stunting rate in Indonesia in 2013 was 37.6%. In the Indonesian Nutrition Status Survey (SSGI) in 2021 the national stunting rate dropped to 24.4%. Based on the results of the Indonesian Nutrition Status Survey (SSGI) in 2022, the stunting rate fell from 24.4% in 2021 to 21.6% in 2022 (Ri, 2022). This stunting prevalence has decreased from previous years. However, it is still far from the standard given by WHO, which is that the prevalence of stunting should be less than 20%. This is also still far from the target given by Indonesian President Joko Widodo, who targets the stunting rate to drop to 14 percent by 2024. At least 3.8% reduction for 2 consecutive years is still needed to achieve the 14% target (Rokom, 2023).

**Figure 1**

**Prevalence of Stunting in Indonesia 2007, 2010-2022**



*Source: Indonesian Nutrition Status Survey (SSGI) Pocket Guide, 2022.*

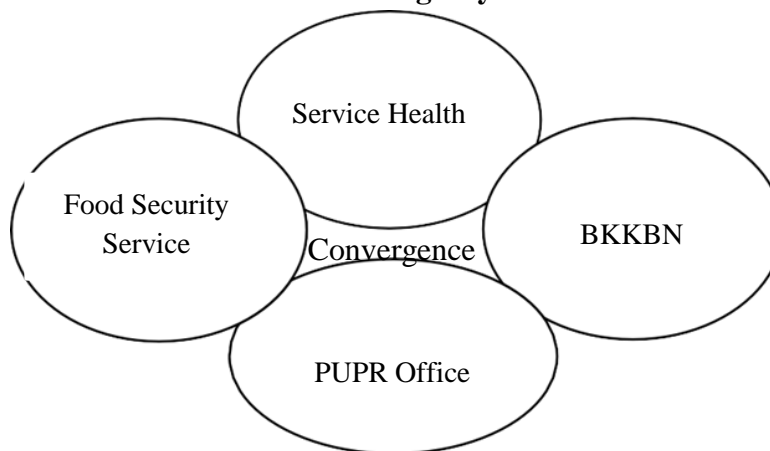
The government has designed a policy with the issuance of Presidential Regulation Number 72 of 2021 concerning the Acceleration of Stunting Reduction in Indonesia which aims to reduce the level of stunting prevalence in Indonesia. According to Presidential Regulation number 72 of 2021 concerning the acceleration of stunting reduction, the Government has set a provisional target of 14% by 2024. In reducing the stunting rate, the government is also trying to establish a National Strategy for the Acceleration of Stunting Prevention which aims to accelerate the reduction of stunting within the framework of existing policies and institutions. There are 5 (five) pillars in the national strategy, namely: 1) Leadership commitment and vision; 2) National campaigns and behavior change campaigns; 3) Convergence, coordination, and consolidation of central, regional, and village programs; 4) Nutrition and food security; and 5) Monitoring and evaluation (TNP2K RI., 2018). The large number of stunting cases that occur in Indonesia has caused the government to focus on the existence of stunting meetings conducted in various provinces, districts / cities.

One of them is Sikka Regency. Sikka district is one of the two districts that experienced an increase in stunting rates in the August 2023 period (Salukh, 2023). The development of data on



stunting cases in Sikka Regency from the e-PPGBM application shows fluctuations from year to year, where in August 2019 there were 4,164 or 25.1% stunted children, in August 2020 there were 4,010 or 19.6% stunted children, in February 2023 there were 3,174 or 13% stunted children and in August 2023 there were 3,327 stunted children or 15.3% stunted children. The data shows that Sikka district has not met the national target set by the President of the Republic of Indonesia, which is 14% in 2024. This figure also shows that the Sikka Regency RPJMD target for 2018-2024 has not been achieved, which sets a 0% rate for Sikka Regency (Sikkakab.go.id, 2023). One way to accelerate the reduction of stunting, the government is Sikka Regency issued a special regulation related to handling stunting, namely Regent Regulation Number 19 of 2019 concerning Stunting Prevention in the Region. The Perbup explains in article 5 about the pillars of stunting prevention joint actions and breakthroughs in stunting prevention which are carried out through several pillars, one of which is convergence, coordination, and consolidation of national, regional and community programs. The Sikka Regency Government makes 8 convergence actions in handling stunting, Convergence or cooperation through the third action is through the action of stunting consultation, where the stunting consultation activity aims to build the capacity and commitment of Regional Apparatus, Village Heads and Village Heads to plan, implement, monitor and evaluate convergent interventions to reduce stunting rates in Sikka Regency. For this reason, handling and reducing stunting requires integration between specific and sensitive interventions (Muktiyo et al., 2020).

### 1. Diagram of Convergence in Stunting Reduction Efforts in Indonesia Sikka Regency.



*Source: Author's Report, (2023)*

First, specific nutrition interventions are activities that address the direct causes of stunting by targeting pregnant women, nursing mothers and children, especially in the first 1000 days of life (HPK). These activities are usually short-term and carried out in the health sector, in this case the Health Office, and nutrition-sensitive interventions, which are interventions carried out through various activities outside the health sector targeting all communities. In this case, the



intervention is carried out by the BKKBN / P2KBP3A Office, the PUPR Office, and the Food Security Office.

Wolomarang Village is a village located in West Alok Sub-district, where West Alok Sub-district is included in the five sub-districts with the highest stunting prevalence rate in Sikka Regency (Jehadu, 2022). Geographically, Wolomarang Village has an area of 7 km<sup>2</sup> with a population of 10,736 people. Based on data from the Sikka Regency Health Office, the number of toddlers in the Wolomarang Health Center area alone in August 2023 was 1823 toddlers with a total number of toddlers measured as many as 1419 toddlers with 217 toddlers included in stunting. Of the 217 toddlers who experienced stunting, 77 of them were toddlers in the Wolomarang Village area. Based on the data above, it can be seen that the number of stunting in the Wolomarang Village area is still high while access to public facilities from the Wolomarang Village area is easy to reach. The reason why the stunting rate in Wolomarang Village is still high is also due to low human resources and economic factors where some of the residents of Wolomarang Village work as fishermen and only help sell fish in the market. Based on a series of efforts and problems in its implementation, basically all programs established by the Regency government have a high correlation to alleviate the problem of stunting at the district, sub-district and village levels, in this case, Wolomarang Village. However, this countermeasure cannot be done by one sector alone but requires cooperation between existing sectors to carry out specific nutrition interventions and nutrition-sensitive interventions carried out by the Health Office, BKKBN, PUPR Office and Food Security Office.

A collaborative perspective is needed in problem solving, especially in solving problems that involve many people, because it cannot be done by one sector alone but requires assistance from various sectors. According to the BKKBN in the pre-survey, in the implementation of convergence in efforts to overcome the problem of stunting in Wolomarang Village, West Alok District, Sikka Regency, an obstacle was found, namely the weak cooperation between cross-sector organizations to overcome the problem of nutrition or stunting. Therefore, this research wants to see how the process of cooperation carried out by the collaborating sectors includes; face to face dialogue, trust building, commitment to the process, shared understanding, intermediate outcomes regarding the extent to which the cooperation is carried out and not focused only on the results of reducing stunting rates in Wolomarang Village, West Alok District, Sikka Regency. Interested in taking the title "Convergence in Stunting Prevention Efforts in Wolomarang Village, West Alok District, Sikka Regency" with the aim of knowing and analyzing the process of implementing convergence in stunting prevention efforts in Wolomarang Village, West Alok District, Sikka Regency.

Collaboration according to Udiani (2016) in (Wulandari, 2019) states Collaboration as a network or distribution of information, resources, activities and organizational capabilities in two or more sectors to work together to achieve goals that cannot be achieved if working alone. Collaboration is cooperation that is carried out on the basis of mutual agreement between two or more parties, especially in an effort to combine thoughts in terms of achieving goals. In a

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collaboration there are components that are key to the success of the collaboration itself. The components of collaboration according to Ansel and Gash (2008: 558) include: face to face dialogue, trust building, commitment to the process, shared understanding, intermediate outcomes.

## 2. RESEARCH METHODS

This research uses a qualitative method with a descriptive approach. The informants in this study amounted to 7 people with sampling using purposive sampling. The data sources used in this study include primary and secondary data sources. The data collection techniques used by researchers are interviews and documentation. The technique used by researchers in analyzing data is data reduction in reducing data by describing and summarizing all research results into research reports. The next stage of the data that has been selected is simplified and discards unnecessary ones. The next step after data reduction is data presentation by means of or in the form of descriptions, tables, photos. After the presented data is discussed in detail, the next stage of the data is drawn conclusions. Testing the validity of the data in this study using source triangulation and technical triangulation. This research was conducted at the Sikka Regency Health Office, Sikka Regency National Population and Family Planning Agency (BKKBN), Sikka Regency Food Security Office, Sikka Regency Public Works and Spatial Planning Office, Wolomarang Community Health Center and Wolomarang Village, West Alok Sub-district, Sikka Regency as the place where the object of research took place.

## 3. RESEARCH RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Collaboration or cooperation in a government is needed to overcome a public problem. In the collaboration process there is formal decision-making, consensus, and there is a division of roles to implement public policies or manage public programs. This can be done through the collaboration framework according to (Ansel & Gash, 2008) which is carried out through several stages, including Face To Face Dialogue, Building Trust, Commitment To Process, Shared Understanding, and Intermediate Outcomes. Which will be discussed in the sub- discussion below.

### Face To Face Dialogue in Countermeasure Efforts

Stunting in Wolomarang Village, West Alok Sub-district, Sikka Regency.

Collaboration is essentially known as cooperation with actors both in groups and individually as a form of work commitment, common vision and mission and goals to be realized together which may be difficult to achieve when each actor works individually or personalism (Wulandari, 2019). Face-to-face dialogue is one of the important things in the collaboration process to determine ideas or initial communication in collaboration. This direct face-to-face dialogue can be a space for actors to exchange ideas or thoughts in efforts to overcome stunting in Wolomarang Village, West Alok District, Sikka Regency.



## Communication

Early communication to form collaboration in stunting prevention efforts is very important. This is motivated by the government's awareness and limitations in efforts to fulfill excellent public needs. In the results of interviews and existing data related to communication in convergence in stunting prevention efforts in Wolomarang Village, the initial communication between agencies involved in stunting prevention efforts has gone well through coordination meetings which are routinely held four times a year, namely in January, May, October and December. The Health Office, P2KBP3A Office, PUPR Office, AND Food Security Office under the coordination of Bappeda regularly met to synchronize their strategies and activities to address stunting at the district level.

With solid cooperation through these coordination meetings, it is hoped that stunting prevention efforts in Wolomarang Village can be continuously improved to improve the overall welfare of the community.

Building Trust in Stunting Prevention Efforts in Wolomarang Village, West Alok District, Sikka Regency.

After conducting face-to-face dialog, the next stage is for the cooperating actors to build trust with each other through active participation as a prerequisite for the cooperation process to take place. As part of the cooperation process, institutions need to create strong and trusting relationships between participants. This is based on a shared vision between the actors that allows each component to participate.

## Building Trust

After conducting face-to-face dialog, the actors build mutual understanding or trust. At this stage, in order to create a good and respectful cooperation process between the stakeholders involved, the actors build trust or understanding of the cooperation they are doing so that the trust or understanding that is built together can be accounted for.

In the results of interviews and existing data related to building trust in convergence in stunting prevention efforts in Wolomarang Village, it is clear that building trust or understanding between sectors involved in cooperation in stunting prevention efforts in Wolomarang Village is based on the actors' awareness that the stunting problem is a complex public problem and requires integrated and sustainable solutions. For this reason, overcoming and preventing stunting problems cannot be done by one sector alone but involves multi-sectors, in this case the Health Office, P2KBP3A Office, PUPR Office, Food Security Office through interventions in accordance with the main tasks and functions of each agency.

## A Win-Win Solution

In the implementation of the collaborative process to overcome the problem of stunting in Wolomarang Village, it is carried out in a participatory manner where all those involved in this collaborative activity carry out their programs and activities. In the results of interviews and existing data related to the agreement that is a win-win solution in convergence win-win solution in convergence in efforts countermeasures stunting at Wolomarang Village can be explained that at this stage the collaboration strategy uses the concept of participation. Where each actor involved, namely the Health Office, P2KBP3A Office, PUPR Office, and Food Security Office in collaboration in overcoming stunting in Wolomarang Village, actively participates by carrying out their duties and responsibilities according to their respective work scopes.



However, although each agency has implemented their duties according to their main tasks and functions, this collaboration has not run optimally. One of them is the less than optimal contribution of the Food Security Agency in providing food assistance, where the P2L assistance program for Wolomarang Village only exists in 2023, while for this year there is no assistance program available. This shows a time mismatch in the search for assistance that can reduce the effectiveness of this collaborative effort. Nevertheless, this collaborative effort involving various important actors is still a positive step in dealing with the stunting problem in Wolomarang Village. Further evaluation and coordination is needed to maximize the potential of this collaboration in order to achieve optimal results in the long run.

### **Commitment To Process in Stunting Prevention Efforts in Wolomarang Village, West Alok Sub-district, Sikka Regency.**

Commitment is a very important component in the collaboration process. According to Ansel and Gash (2007:599), the level of commitment between stakeholders determines the success and failure of collaboration. Each actor must have a strong commitment and desire to complete their respective tasks and responsibilities based on the agreement that has been decided together.

#### **Commitment to Process**

Commitment is closely related to the original motivation of the actors in the collaboration. In the results of interviews and existing data related to commitment to the process in convergence in stunting prevention efforts in Wolomarang Village, it can be explained that the commitment between actors in the collaboration to overcome stunting shows a high commitment to achieving the target of reducing stunting rates until Sikka Regency is free from stunting with meetings or evaluations to discuss interventions carried out and subsequent interventions, and in accordance with the existing juridical basis.

However, until now the stunting prevalence rate has not reached 1 digit. This is because the implementation still faces several challenges. The available budget is still inadequate compared to the large needs. This hampers the effectiveness of the implementation of the planned programs. Second, the foster child program, which in concept already exists, but its implementation is not optimal. This shows that there is a gap between plans and implementation in the field. In addition, public awareness of the stunting problem is still low, thus supporting community participation in activities to overcome stunting is also lacking. Thus, despite a strong commitment and efforts to intervene and evaluate in accordance with regulations, challenges such as budget constraints, suboptimal program implementation, and low public awareness and participation are still obstacles that need to be overcome to achieve the desired stunting reduction goals.

### **Shared Understanding in Countermeasure Efforts Stunting in Wolomarang Village, West Alok Sub-district, Sikka Regency.**

Shared understanding is important in achieving a common goal. Shared understanding is a process by which a group of people agree on what is right or wrong. This can happen through social interaction and effective communication. Shared understanding is essential in a variety of contexts such as in families, communities, and organizations.



## Equalization of Perceptions Between the Actors Involved

Equalization of perceptions between actors is very important to achieve understanding and synergy in a program. In the results of interviews and existing data related to shared understanding in convergence in efforts to overcome stunting in Wolomarang Village, it can be explained that the perception of equalization has been carried out by stakeholders in the collaboration, with the existence of a stunting reduction acceleration team (tpps) to accelerate stunting reduction built through coordination meetings held at the district level and minilokakarya conducted at the sub-district level. The actors involved are always asked for opinions regarding the progress of activities and programs carried out according to their respective duties so that mutual understanding and understanding are fostered, then the opinions and information submitted will be discussed together to take an agreement (consensus) for further interventions. On the other hand, the equalization of perceptions between actors in stunting prevention in Wolomarang Village has not been very effective because not all sectors are actively involved in the equalization of perceptions carried out through minilokakarya at the sub-district level. Therefore, the government needs to integrate all sectors in cross-sectoral meetings conducted at the sub-district level to ensure active participation and contribute to the common perception.

## Intermediate Outcomes of Countermeasure Efforts Stunting in Wolomarang Village, West Alok Sub-district, Sikka Regency.

Temporary impacts occur during the cooperation process, hence the word "temporary" in it. Temporary impacts generate feedback. The expected feedback is positive feedback, called "small-wins".

**Tabel 1**  
**Wolomarang Village Stunting Data**  
**2019-2024**

Village	Year	Month	Total
Wolomarang	2019	February	183
		August	133
	2020	February	132
		August	76
	2021	February	92
		August	87
	2022	February	87
		August	86
	2023	February	40
		August	77
	2024	February	101

*Source: Wolomarang Health Center, (2024)*

From the results of interviews and existing data, it can be explained related to the temporary impact of the convergence of stunting prevention in Wolomarang Village that the convergence carried out is not going well as seen from the stunting data that has increased from August 2023 to February 2024. This shows that the cooperation carried out has not been optimal, where the expected feedback in this temporary result is positive feedback, namely a small victory in the





form of a decrease in the stunting rate, but on the contrary, there is an increase in the stunting rate in Wolomarang Village. This is a note for the Wolomarang Village government and sectors that intervene to further improve and optimize cooperation in stunting prevention efforts to provide more intensive assistance to increase public awareness of the dangers of stunting as well as socialization and education to the community to be more active in participating in activities and programs made in order to alleviate this stunting problem.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

From the description given it can be concluded that, convergence in stunting prevention efforts in Wolomarang Village, West Alok Sub-district, Sikka Regency goes through various important processes which include: Face-to-Face Dialogue: At this stage of face-to-face dialog, the actors involved in cooperation in order to overcome the problem of stunting build communication through coordination meetings held at the district level. Building Trust: In this second stage, the actors involved build understanding or trust in each other that the stunting problem cannot be done sectorally but requires support and programs from various sectors. Therefore, each sector actively participates in the collaboration to overcome stunting by carry out their respective duties and responsibilities in accordance with their respective fields. Commitment to the Process: At this stage, the cooperation process is not going well. This is due to budget constraints so that the interventions made are less adequate. The non-implementation of the foster child program as well as the family economy and low public awareness make stunting a major problem that plagues Wolomarang Village at this time. Shared Understanding: At this stage, cooperation is going well with the existence of a stunting reduction acceleration team (tpps) to accelerate stunting reduction built through coordination meetings held at the district level and mini-workshops held at the sub-district level, where actors convey the progress of activities and programs carried out according to their respective duties. On the other hand, the common perception between actors in stunting prevention in Wolomarang Village has not been very effective because not all sectors are actively involved in the common perception conducted through minilokarya held at the sub- district level. Temporary Impact: At this stage, the implementation of convergence in Wolomarang Village has obtained temporary results, where the stunting rate in Wolomarang Village has increased from the previous period, namely, 77 children in August 2023 to 101 children in 2024. It can be concluded that the convergence is not going well.

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