
Stakeholder Collaboration in Handling Stunting and Malnutrition Cases in Mekarjaya Subdistrict, Pandeglang District

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ABSTRACT

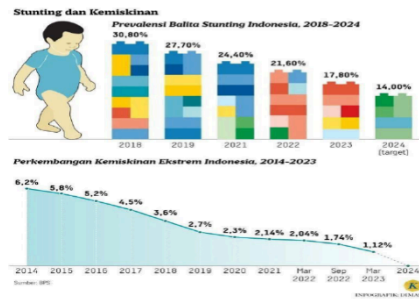
Stunting and malnutrition remain significant public health issues in Pandeglang District, including in the Mekarjaya Subdistrict. Effective intervention requires cross-sectoral collaboration among stakeholders such as local government, health workers, communities, and other actors. This study aims to analyze the forms of stakeholder collaboration in addressing stunting and malnutrition cases, identify existing challenges, and formulate strategies to strengthen local-level cooperation. This research uses a qualitative approach with a case study method. Data were collected through in-depth interviews, observations, and documentation involving key informants such as the subdistrict head, head of the public health center, village heads, and posyandu (integrated health post) cadres. The findings show that the collaboration among stakeholders remains sectoral and lacks systematic integration. Weak coordination, the absence of local regulations, and underutilized local potential and wisdom are the main obstacles. However, there is potential for improvement through the establishment of intersectoral forums, capacity building for community health workers, and localized program adaptation. The study recommends developing collaborative local regulations and sustainable coordination mechanisms to accelerate the reduction of stunting and malnutrition in a holistic manner.

Keywords: stakeholder collaboration, stunting, malnutrition, Mekarjaya, Pandeglang

1. INTRODUCTION

Stunting and malnutrition are public health issues that are still a major challenge in Indonesia. Based on data from the 2022 Indonesian Nutritional Status Survey (SSGI), the national prevalence of stunting reached 21.6%, which means that around one in five toddlers experience stunted growth. This condition not only impacts the child's physical aspects, but also cognitive development, future productivity, and contributes to the intergenerational chain of poverty.

Stunting dan Kemiskinan Ekstrem di Indonesia

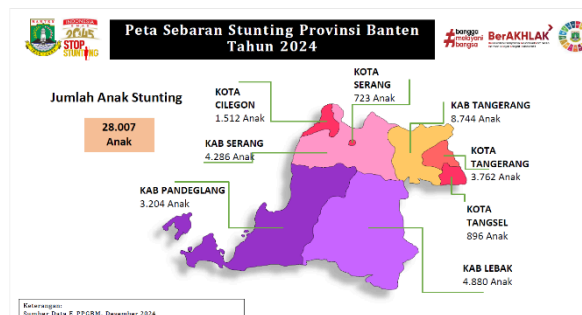


Picture 1. BPS (2025)

The Indonesian government has demonstrated a strong commitment to accelerating stunting reduction efforts through various national policies, such as the National Strategy for Accelerating Stunting Reduction (Stranas Stunting) and strengthening coordination across ministries/institutions. However, the problem of stunting is complex and multidimensional, involving health, education, economic, environmental, and social aspects. Therefore, it cannot be handled by one party alone, but must be handled through a collaborative approach across sectors and multi-parties.

Collaboration between stakeholders — both from central and regional governments, health, education, agriculture, community organizations, the private sector, the media, and academics — is key to the success of the stunting reduction program. The pentahelix approach has been encouraged by the government to ensure synergy and integration of programs at various levels of government down to the village level. However, in its implementation, there are still many obstacles such as weak coordination, overlapping programs, lack of community involvement, and minimal locally-based innovation.

Thus, an in-depth analysis is needed on how collaboration between stakeholders is carried out, the challenges faced, and strategies to optimize it, so that handling stunting and malnutrition in Indonesia can take place effectively, efficiently, and sustainably.



Picture 2. E-PPGBM Data, Desember (2024)

Pandeglang District is located in Banten Province, Indonesia, and has an area of around 2,800 km² with a population of more than 1.4 million people in 2024. Most of the population works in the agriculture, fisheries, and MSME sectors. Despite having abundant natural resource potential, Pandeglang still faces challenges in terms of infrastructure, education, and health.

One of the health issues that is of serious concern is stunting and malnutrition. The Pandeglang District Government has been fully committed to preventing and overcoming

stunting as part of efforts to prepare quality human resources to welcome the peak of the demographic bonus in 2030.

According to Bappenas, Pandeglang District is included in the Stunting Locus Intervention Focus districts/cities. From this, the Stunting locus village was determined in 2025 which is divided into 7 Districts, namely Mekarjaya, Majasari, Karangtanjung, Cibitung, Sukaresmi, Kaduhejo, Carita. And there are 15 Locus Villages. The selection of the location of the focus of Stunting intervention at the District/City Level is based on a number of indicators, including the number of toddlers with Stunting, prevalence of Stunting and poverty levels. The data is presented in the table below:

Table 1. Number of stunted babies in Mekarjaya Subdistrict, Pandeglang District

No	Village Name	Number of Stunting
1	Kadujangkung	17
2	Kadubelang	32
3	Wirasinga	25
4	Pareang	34
5	Rancabugel	22
Total		127

Source: researcher, 2025

Mekarjaya consists of eight villages, namely Kadubelang, Pareang, Wirasinga, Rancabugel, Kadujangkung, Medong, Sukamulya, and Mekarjaya. Of the five above, it is included in the villages affected by stunting and malnutrition. Most of the population earns a living in the agriculture and fisheries sectors. However, access to health services and education is still limited, and public awareness of the importance of balanced nutrition needs to be increased.

At the sub-district level, handling stunting and malnutrition faces various challenges, including:

- **Limited Access to Health Services:** Several villages in Mekarjaya Subdistrict still have limited access to health facilities, such as health centers and integrated health posts.
- **Minimal Nutrition Education:** Lack of counseling on the importance of balanced nutrition and healthy eating patterns, especially for pregnant women and toddlers.
- **Low Community Participation:** Community involvement in health and nutrition programs is still low, so the effectiveness of the stunting reduction program is not optimal.
- **Weak Coordination Between Stakeholders:** Lack of synergy between the government, community, and private sector in efforts to address stunting and malnutrition.

Facing these challenges, collaboration between various parties is very important. The pentahelix approach involving the government, community, business world, academics, and media is expected to strengthen synergy in efforts to reduce stunting and malnutrition rates. The Pandeglang District Government has implemented this approach to achieve a more significant target of reducing stunting.

Therefore, this study aims to analyze the form of collaboration between stakeholders in handling stunting and malnutrition in Mekarjaya Subdistrict, and to identify

factors that influence the effectiveness of such collaboration. The following is a summary of several previous studies that examine stakeholder collaboration in handling stunting and malnutrition cases in Indonesia. According to Sukanti and Farida (2021), in the Caraka Prabu journal, they studied the implementation of collaborative governance in Sleman District. They found that collaboration between stakeholders had gone quite well, but there were still obstacles such as the absence of a special communication forum at the district government level and the lack of role of the private sector. Their recommendations include improving coordination and periodic program evaluation. In addition, research by Yulianti Absor and Ratriana (2022) in the Family Planning Journal examined the implementation of the collaborative governance model and the Pentahelix paradigm in Brebes District. They found that cross-sector collaboration succeeded in reducing stunting rates through community empowerment and coordination between stakeholders. However, they also emphasized the need to strengthen institutional capacity and communication between related parties. The same thing was also found by Rahmat Ar (2023) in his thesis at UGM discussing collaboration between stakeholders in handling stunting in Nagan Raya District. This study found that collaboration has been going well, but there are obstacles such as lack of local regulations and coordination between sectors. The recommendation from this study is the need to strengthen institutions and regulations to support more effective collaboration.

According to Salsabila and Santoso (2023) in the Journal of Public Policy and Management Review, they studied the implementation of collaborative governance in Tanjung Mas Village. They found that collaboration between the government, community, and private sector has been going well, but there are still challenges such as lack of infrastructure and supervision of integrated health posts. Their recommendations include improving infrastructure and supervision to improve the quality of human resources.

And according to Ibrahim (2022) in the Indonesian Health Policy Journal, discussing innovation in handling stunting in East Flores District. This study emphasizes the importance of a local-based approach and community empowerment in efforts to reduce stunting rates. The recommendation from this study is the need to adapt local-based programs and increase community capacity.

This article highlights scientific novelty in the study of stakeholder collaboration in handling stunting and malnutrition cases in Mekarjaya Subdistrict, Pandeglang District, which can be seen from several aspects as follows:

1. Implementation of the Collaborative Governance Model

Previous studies have shown the importance of collaboration between stakeholders in handling stunting. For example, in Pandeglang District, Regent Irna Narulita invited the community to collaborate with the government in preventing stunting through programs such as the Toddler Weighing Month and immunization, as well as providing vitamins for adolescent girls through the SARITA (Sehat Berseri Tanpa Anemia) program. In addition, the Tanoto Foundation also collaborates with local governments in efforts to reduce stunting through the Rumah Gizi program in Tarunajaya Village, Karangtanjung Village.

2. Innovation of Nutrition House Program by Tanoto Foundation

Tanoto Foundation established Nutrition House in Tarunajaya Village, Karangtanjung Village, Pandeglang District, as an effort to improve nutrition in children and prevent stunting. This program involves collaboration between Tanoto Foundation, local government, and local community

3. Family Empowerment through PKK Kitchen

PKK Kitchen in Pandeglang District is one of the solutions in efforts to accelerate the handling of stunting and malnutrition as well as family empowerment. This program has shown good progress in increasing children's weight and empowering families in providing nutritious food.

4. Multi-party Collaboration in Supporting the Zero Stunting Agenda

The Indonesian Philanthropy Association (PFI) emphasizes the importance of multi-party collaboration in supporting the government's agenda towards Indonesia Zero Stunting. This collaboration involves the government, private sector, civil society organizations, media, academics, and other development agents in reducing the prevalence of stunting in Indonesia.

5. Increasing public trust in handling stunting

Research in Tuban District shows that public trust in handling stunting at the village level (street level bureaucracy) is quite good, especially in the dimensions of openness and integrity. This shows that collaboration between stakeholders can increase public trust in stunting handling programs.

Thus, scientific updates in the study of stakeholder collaboration in handling cases of stunting and malnutrition in Mekarjaya Subdistrict, Pandeglang District, include the application of a collaborative governance model, innovation of the Rumah Gizi program, family empowerment through Dapur PKK, multi-party collaboration in supporting the Zero Stunting agenda, and increasing public trust in handling stunting.

B. LITERATURE REVIEW

Stakeholder Collaboration in Addressing Stunting and Malnutrition

Stunting and malnutrition are complex public health challenges that require a multi-sectoral response. In recent years, the concept of collaborative governance has gained prominence as an effective approach in addressing such issues. Collaborative governance is defined as a process in which public agencies directly engage with non-state stakeholders in a collective decision-making process (Ansell & Gash, 2008). This model has been widely adopted in various public policy contexts, including health and nutrition interventions in Indonesia.

Research conducted by Sukanti and Faidati (2021) in Sleman District revealed that although stakeholder collaboration existed in the stunting prevention program, it was hindered by the absence of structured communication forums and limited participation from the private sector. Similarly, Yulianti Absor and Ratriana (2022), in their study in Brebes District, emphasized the role of the Pentahelix model — involving government, academia, business, community, and media — in successfully reducing stunting prevalence. They noted that community empowerment and structured coordination were key drivers of success, but also underlined the need for strengthening institutional capacities.

In another case study, Rahmat (2023) investigated collaborative efforts in Nagan Raya, Aceh. The research identified several institutional barriers, such as the absence of clear local regulations and ineffective inter-sectoral coordination, as factors limiting the program's success. Rahmat recommended reinforcing local governance mechanisms and building a regulatory framework that clearly defines stakeholder roles.

Salsabila and Santoso (2023), in their research in Semarang City, highlighted the benefits of involving private actors in improving the infrastructure and monitoring

mechanisms of posyandu services. Their findings suggest that public-private partnerships could play a critical role in addressing logistical and resource gaps in local nutrition programs.

Furthermore, Ibrahim (2022) explored the case of Flores Timur District and emphasized the importance of local innovation. The implementation of culturally adapted interventions — such as locally sourced supplementary feeding programs and community-based monitoring — contributed to measurable improvements in child nutrition. His study also found that local wisdom and social norms played a central role in shaping the effectiveness of collaboration strategies.

Collaborative Governance and Local Context

The application of collaborative governance in rural and under-resourced areas, such as Mekarjaya Subdistrict, must consider specific social, cultural, and infrastructural contexts. According to the Tanoto Foundation (2023), stunting reduction efforts are most effective when programs are rooted in local knowledge and designed with direct community involvement. For instance, the establishment of Rumah Gizi in Banten province showcased a community-centered model of nutrition intervention that integrated education, food provision, and parent engagement.

Moreover, the use of Dapur PKK (community kitchens led by women's organizations) has emerged as a model for combining nutrition assistance with women's empowerment. The Government of Banten Province (2023) reported that this initiative not only improved the nutritional intake of children but also encouraged sustainable food practices and enhanced local leadership.

Filantropi Indonesia (2023) has also emphasized the need for multi-stakeholder engagement to achieve national goals, such as the Indonesia Zero Stunting agenda. Their national-level analysis shows that intersectoral partnerships — when inclusive and well-coordinated — contribute significantly to reducing malnutrition disparities across regions.

In summary, the existing body of literature underscores the importance of structured, inclusive, and contextually adapted stakeholder collaboration in combating stunting and malnutrition. While previous studies have demonstrated various models and outcomes, they consistently point to the need for strong local governance, continuous capacity building, and mechanisms for sustained coordination

3. RESEARCH METHOD

This study employed a qualitative approach using a case study method to explore the forms and effectiveness of stakeholder collaboration in addressing stunting and malnutrition in Mekarjaya Subdistrict, Pandeglang District. The qualitative case study design was chosen to gain a comprehensive and in-depth understanding of the interactions, challenges, and strategies among various actors involved in local stunting interventions.

The research was conducted in five villages identified as stunting-prone areas within Mekarjaya Subdistrict: Kadujungkung, Kadubelang, Wirasinga, Pareang, and Rancabugel. These locations were selected based on official data from the local government and the Indonesian Ministry of Health, which showed high prevalence rates of stunting among children under five in these communities.

Data collection was carried out through in-depth interviews, participant observation, and document analysis. In-depth interviews were conducted with key stakeholders, including the subdistrict head (camat), heads of local public health centers (puskesmas), village leaders, posyandu (integrated health post) cadres, PKK (Family Welfare Movement) representatives, and community and religious leaders. The interviews

focused on the roles, coordination mechanisms, and barriers to collaboration in implementing stunting prevention programs.

Participant observation was also utilized to directly observe coordination meetings, health service activities, and community nutrition education sessions. This method enabled the researchers to capture the actual practices and interaction patterns among stakeholders. In addition, official documents such as health reports, local regulations, and meeting minutes were analyzed to support the primary data and validate findings.

To analyze the collected data, a thematic analysis technique was used. The process involved transcribing interview recordings, coding relevant themes, and interpreting the data based on the theoretical framework of collaborative governance. The researchers specifically referred to the model by Ansell and Gash (2008), which outlines key components of successful cross-sectoral collaboration such as trust-building, mutual understanding, and joint decision-making.

To ensure the credibility and trustworthiness of the findings, data triangulation was applied by comparing interview results, observational notes, and documentary evidence. Additionally, member checks were conducted by involving selected informants in reviewing the interpreted results to confirm accuracy and contextual relevance.

Overall, the methodological design of this study allowed for a rich and contextualized understanding of how multi-stakeholder collaboration is structured, practiced, and challenged at the local level in combating stunting and malnutrition in rural Indonesia.

4. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Based on the search for published article data through publish or perish with the keywords "stakeholder collaboration, stunting, malnutrition, Mekarjaya, Pandeglang" found 950 papers, and 7817 citations

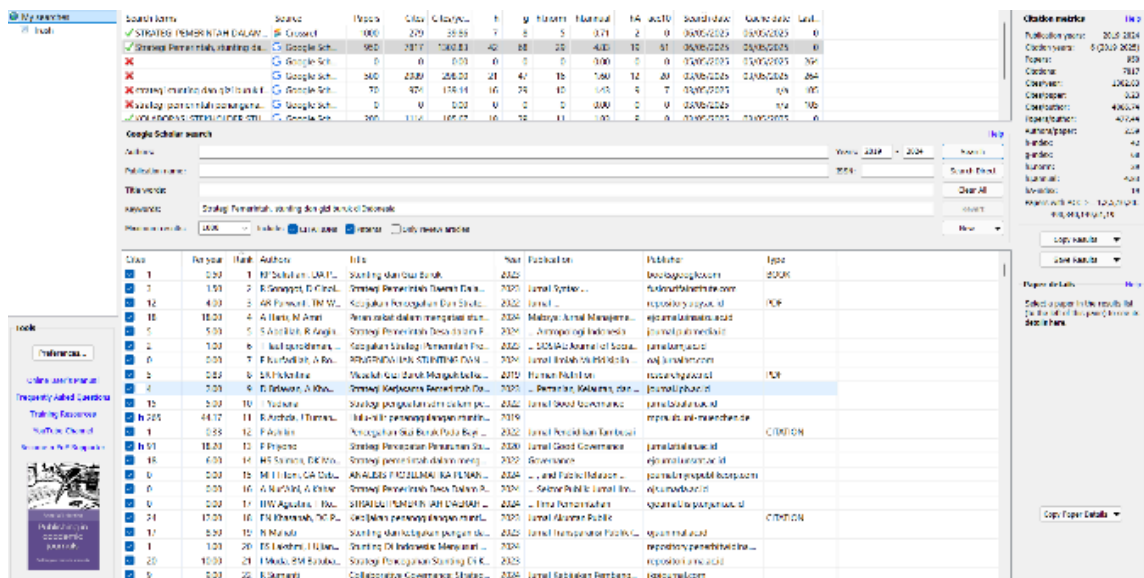


Figure 4. Publish Or Perish (Source: PoP, 2025)

Article data is processed in RIS format and data is processed using VOS Viewer, in order to see bibliometric visualization and scientific publication trends around the keywords "stakeholder collaboration, stunting, malnutrition, Mekarjaya, Pandeglang" Input and reviewed as follows:

Co-word Map network visualization.

- Communication and coordination between sectors are weak, causing activities to run independently and repeatedly.
- Programs tend to follow national models without local adaptations that take into account culture, geography, or community customs.
- Lack of local regulations that require collaboration between institutions in handling stunting systematically.

e. Potential for Strengthening Collaboration

Mekarjaya has potential that can be developed, such as:

- Strong social capital in the community - the presence of religious leaders, female cadres, and a culture of mutual cooperation can be drivers of behavioral change.
- Village involvement through Village Funds - can be directed to support integrated health posts, training for pregnant women, and fulfilling children's nutrition.
- Openness to local approaches - such as local food-based supplementary food or education through religious study forums.

f. Recommendations for Strengthening Collaboration

- Form a sub-district collaborative forum that involves all stakeholders periodically.
- Increase the role of village governments and cadres in integrating nutrition programs with village development.
- Encourage the existence of regulations or district/district regent regulations on collaborative governance for handling stunting.
- Involve local academics and universities in the preparation of data-based programs and impact evaluations.
- Developing a local collaboration model based on Mekarjaya cultural wisdom, such as nutrition education in the tradition of mothers' religious studies or empowering youth organizations for healthy living campaigns.

This study shows that the handling of stunting and malnutrition in Mekarjaya Subdistrict has not been fully optimal due to weak synergy between stakeholders. Although several parties such as the village government, health centers, and integrated health post cadres have been involved in efforts to overcome stunting, the collaboration is still carried out sectorally and has not been supported by a strong coordination system, strict local regulations, or a local potential-based approach.

The programs that are running tend to be top-down and have not been fully adapted to the needs of the local community. In addition, there is no collaborative forum that involves all elements such as the community, the business world, and local figures in a common framework. In fact, the socio-cultural strengths of Mekarjaya such as mutual cooperation, religious figures, and cadre networks have great potential to encourage a more sustainable approach to handling stunting.

5. CONCLUSION

- a. Collaboration between stakeholders in Mekarjaya Subdistrict has been ongoing, but is not yet fully structured and optimal. The involvement of parties such as the village government, health centers, integrated health post cadres, and community leaders is still sectoral and has not been integrated into a collaborative work system.
- b. Cross-sector coordination and communication are still major challenges, especially because there is no formal forum (coordination forum) that facilitates joint planning, implementation, and evaluation of activities in an integrated manner.

- c. The stunting management program in Mekarjaya tends to follow a top-down approach from the central government, with minimal adaptation to the socio-cultural context and local potential of the Mekarjaya community.
- d. Local regulations that encourage multi-party collaboration are not yet explicitly available, so the roles of each stakeholder do not complement or strengthen each other in a common strategy.
- e. The community has great potential as an active partner in handling stunting, especially through integrated health post cadres, religious leaders, and mothers' groups. However, this potential has not been mobilized optimally through an innovative approach based on local wisdom.
- f. To strengthen collaboration, it is necessary to establish cross-sector forums, support regional-level regulations, and design contextual and participatory local collaboration models.

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