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ADDRESSING THE STUNTING PREVALENCE AMONG THE BAJAU COMMUNITY IN THE REGENCY OF BUTON, SOUTHEAST SULAWESI: AN INCLUSIVE APPROACH

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Abstract: *Stunting is one of the challenges to realizing the Golden Indonesia 2045. Thus, stunting is currently a national priority issue due to the stunting prevalence movement at the national and regional levels. There is a quite contrasting gap in stunting rates seen in the islands of Southeast Sulawesi Province, especially Buton Regency. More than that, there is a Bajau Tribe community that lives side by side with mainland communities where the stunting rate is very high, it is influenced by economic conditions, education, and underdeveloped health facilities. With the formation of the Stunting Acceleration Team by the Buton Regency Regional Government, a collaboration process occurs between stakeholders. Thus, this study aims to analyze the relationships that occur during the collaboration process in preventing and handling stunting in the Bajau tribe community in Buton Regency. Through a qualitative-descriptive approach where data was collected through observation, interviews, documentation, audio-visual, and digital materials, this study found that the interactions that occur between stakeholders were running well, especially the interaction between the government and the community. However, there are several obstacles influenced by the social conditions of the Bajau community that hinder the exchange of information and the active participation of the community in the stunting reduction program. This study contributed significantly in elaborating broader perspective in understanding stunting phenomenon in the Buton Regency.*

Keywords: *Bajau's Tribe, Stakeholder, and Stunting.*

Abstrak: Stunting merupakan salah satu tantangan bagi Indonesia untuk meraih Indonesia Emas 2045. Olehnya itu, stunting saat ini menjadi masalah prioritas nasional yang harus diselesaikan melalui pergerakan penanggulangan prevalensi stunting dari tingkat nasional ke tingkat regional. Terdapat kesenjangan yang cukup kontras dalam mengatasi persoalan stunting yang terlihat di pulau-pulau di Provinsi Sulawesi Tenggara, terutama Kabupaten Buton. Lebih dari itu, terdapat juga komunitas suku Bajau yang hidup bersebelahan dengan komunitas daratan di mana tingkat stunting sangat tinggi, dipengaruhi oleh kondisi ekonomi, pendidikan, dan fasilitas kesehatan yang kurang dikembangkan. Dengan pembentukan Tim Percepatan Penurunan Stunting oleh Pemerintah Daerah Kabupaten Buton, terdapat proses kolaborasi yang terjadi antara stakeholder. Dengan demikian, studi ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis hubungan yang terjadi selama proses kolaborasi yang dilakukan dalam pencegahan dan pengolahan stunting di komunitas suku Bajau di Buton Regency. Melalui pendekatan deskriptif kualitatif di mana data dikumpulkan melalui pengamatan, wawancara, dokumentasi, materi audio-visual dan digital, penelitian ini menemukan bahwa interaksi yang terjadi antara pemangku kepentingan berjalan dengan baik, terutama interaksi antara pemerintah dan masyarakat. Namun, ada beberapa hambatan yang dipengaruhi oleh kondisi sosial masyarakat Bajau yang menghambat pertukaran informasi dan partisipasi aktif masyarakat dalam program pengurangan stunting.

Kata Kunci: Suku Bajau; Kolaborasi; Stunting.

I. Introduction

Stunting is a condition when toddlers have below-average height. This is because the nutritional intake provided over a long period did not meet the needs. Stunting has the potential to slow brain development, with long-term impacts in the form of mental retardation, low learning ability, and the risk of chronic diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, and obesity (Kementerian Kesehatan Republik Indonesia, 2018). Muhammad Ridho et al (2021) suggested six factors that are very likely to influence the occurrence of stunting in toddlers, namely: "energy intake, birth weight, mother's education level, family income level, parenting, and food diversity." Furthermore, Batiro et al (2017) found that risk factors that can cause stunting are "infectious diseases such as diarrhea and upper respiratory tract infections (URTI), delayed breastfeeding, non-immunization, animal food deficiency, and unsafe water sources."

It is crucial to address the issue of stunting in tandem with the ongoing economic growth and development. Cases of child stunting can be used as a predictor of the low quality of a country's human resources. Stunting causes poor cognitive abilities, low productivity, and an increased risk of disease, resulting in long-term losses for the economy (Trihono et al., 2015). These conditions will undoubtedly harm Indonesia, which is currently experiencing a demographic boom, if its human resources, which are its future capital, are not physically and cognitively capable of achieving a more advanced state.

This research is intended to complement several previous studies in collaboration and stunting. Research conducted by Ni Ketut Aryastal and Ingan Tarigan (2017) shows several existing policies, such as the National Movement for the First Thousand Days of Life. Then, Juni Rahmat (2023) examines the form of collaboration that occurs between stakeholders involved in handling stunting from both internal and external schemes in Nagan Raya. A study of the factors causing stunting was conducted by Muhammad Ridho Nugroho, Rambat Nur Sasongko, and Muhammad Kristiawan (2021). Furthermore, at the sub-district level, there is a study by Ipan, Hanny Purnamasari, and Evi Priyanti (2021), which examines the implementation of the collaboration process in handling stunting at the UPTD Puskesmas Ciampel. In Buton Regency, there is research by Samrina and Wa Ode Neisyah Jeni (2022) on the level of maternal knowledge about the growth and development of toddlers in Bajo Bahari, Kecamatan Wabula, and Kabupaten Buton.

Southeast Sulawesi has 18 administrative regions divided into 16 districts and 2 cities. According to a Ministry of Health survey, there are several areas with stunting rates greater than 30%. The SSGI survey of Southeast Sulawesi Province can be observed in Table 1 below.

Table 1. Risk of Toddler Stunting in Districts/Municipalities of Southeast Sulawesi Province

No	Districts	Total Prevalence of stunting among toddlers (%)
1	Buton Tengah	41,60
2	Bombana	35,30
3	Buton Selatan	32,60
4	Buton	32,60
5	Konawe Kepulauan	32,30
6	Muna Barat	31,70
7	Muna	31,30
8	Buton Utara	31,20
9	Wakatobi	29,90
10	Konawe	28,30
11	Konawe Selatan	28
12	Sulawesi Tenggara	27,70
13	Bau-bau	26
14	Kolaka Utara	24,80
15	Kolaka Timur	23,70
16	Kolaka	22,60
17	Konawe Utara	21,60
18	Kendari	19,50

Source: SSGI Kementerian Kesehatan, modified by the author,2023

Table 1, presented above, shows that the average prevalence of stunting is still very high compared to the provincial standard. On closer inspection, geographical location also influences these figures, with areas far from the provincial capital, Kendari, tending to have a higher stunting problem. Except for Baubau City, the top nine regions are still islands separated from Sulawesi's mainland. The Buton district ranked fourth with a prevalence rate of 32.60%, shares the same rate as South Buton, which ranks third. Because of the high prevalence rates, the local government has prioritized reducing stunting rates in Buton.

In contrast to the data presented above, the Buton District Government believes that the prevalence of stunting in Buton District has reached its highest level, which was 19% in 2022. As of September 2023, the prevalence of stunting has reached 17%, which is considered to be close to the national standard. As a result, the Buton District Government was recognized as one of the best regions in the Southeast Sulawesi region for its ability to manage stunting.

The issue with the two data points is a component of the necessity for synchronization among stakeholders in each Regional Apparatus Organization (OPD) that is involved in the management of stunting. In the context of government intervention against stunting problems, synchronization and collaboration are demonstrated through regulations that are regulated at the central and regional levels of government. The Acceleration of Integrated Stunting Prevention and Handling in Buton Regency is one of the regulations contained in Regent

Regulation Number 47 of 2019. The Regent Regulation underscores the significance of cross-sectoral engagement, particularly regional apparatus organizations (OPD) within the region, in order to collaborate and work together. This information was obtained from Buton Regent Decree Number 359 of 2022, which pertains to the Stunting Reduction Acceleration Team (TPPS) in Buton Regency. The Regional Planning and Development Agency (BAPPEDA) and other OPDs were responsible for the TPPS. The Family Hope program, commonly referred to as PKH, Posyandu, Clean and Healthy Lifestyle (PHBS), GERMAS, the (1000) First Thousand Days of Life Movement, and the stunting reduction movement are among the programs that the Buton Regency Government is concerned with in relation to stunting, as outlined in the Regent's Regulation.

The entire series of actions is founded on the principle of convergence, which is the principle that tries to accelerate stunting prevention jointly. The active engagement of important stakeholders is required for the activities to be carried out, important stakeholders must actively engage. In the context of this accelerated activity, the term "stakeholders" refers to local governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), community leaders, young people, the private sector, the press, and the community in Buton Regency. The state budget, also known as the *Anggaran Pendapatan dan Belanja Negara* (APBN), the provincial budget, also known as the *APBN Provinsi*, the regency budget, also known as the *APBD Kabupaten*, and the village budget, also known as the *Dana Desa*, as well as other valid sources of money, are utilized to carry out nutrition interventions. When this is taken into consideration, it becomes evident that the administration of stunting is not only carried out vertically, namely between OPDs, but also entails the active participation of villages. The role of the village is further regulated by Regent Regulation Number 48 of 2019, which is titled "Role of the Village in Stunting Prevention." This regulation states that the village is responsible for carrying out convergence actions on planning and budgeting, as well as ensuring that policies are on target through direct monitoring.

The Buton Regency Government annually establishes a Buton Regent Decree regarding Priority Villages for the Acceleration of Stunting Reduction in Buton Regency. The goal is to give special attention to villages that are prioritized for accelerating stunting treatment. Table 2 below shows that 21 villages are currently identified as the 2024 locus villages in Buton District. These villages have a large population, resulting in a high potential risk of stunting.

Table 2. Priority Villages for Accelerating Stunting Reduction Buton Regency in 2024

No.	Villages	Districts
1	Kombeli	Pasarwajo
2	Manuru	Siotapina
3	Kumbewaha	Siotapina
4	Lasalimu	Lasalimu Selatan
5	Sampuabalo	Siotapina
6	Saragi	Pasarwajo
7	Waangu Angu	Pasarwajo
8	Lawele	Lasalimu
9	Nambo	Lasalimu
10	Umalaoge	Lasalimu Selatan
11	Wasampela	Wabula
12	Matawia	Wolowa
13	Wakangka	Kapontori
14	Sumber Sari	Siotapina
15	Wolowa	Wolowa
16	Mega Bahari	Lasalimu Selatan
17	Ambuau Togo	Lasalimu Selatan
18	Balimu (Bajau's Village)	Lasalimu Selatan
19	Wolowa Baru	Wolowa
20	Tuangila	Kapontori
21	Bajo Bahari (Bajau's Village)	Wabula

Source: Bappeda Kabupaten Buton, 2023

In the village locus, there are 2 Bajau community villages out of four Bajau villages spread across 3 sub-districts in Buton District, namely Bajo Bahari Village, Bahari Makmur Village, and Balimu Village. However, this does not mean that one other village is not important to study due to the population ratio and the high number of stunting found in Bajau villages. Based on regulatory documentation regarding locus villages for stunting priorities, four Bajau villages have been included in the list of stunting priority villages since 2020. Balimu village has been a stunting priority for the longest time until 2024, and Bajo Bahari village is now the new priority village for 2024.

The high stunting rate in the Bajau community in Buton is influenced by a variety of causes, including the Bajau culture itself. Education, business, spatial planning, and sanitation are some of the most visible issues facing the Bajau population in Buton. Halifu et al. (2020) discovered that the vast majority of mothers of girls in Bajo Bahari Village have a poor understanding and awareness of the necessity of a balanced diet for adolescent growth. In line

with this, Samrida's (2022) research indicated that mothers' knowledge of the growth and development of toddlers in Bajo Bahari remained insufficient, both at the 'Know' and 'Understand' levels. Both studies underline the same point: the impact of culture on views of health and nutrition.

Through collaborative governance, it is expected to be able to provide a clear picture of the quality of collaborations that have been carried out so far by the Buton Regency government and other interested parties in the context of preventing and handling stunting problems experienced by the Bajau community in Buton Regency. Furthermore, this research aims to see how related parties outside the Buton Regency government, such as NGOs, traditional leaders, Bajau communities, and so on, can sit together with the Buton Regency government.

Based on the previously described background, the author formulates the problem: What is the relationship between stakeholders during the collaboration process that prevents and manages stunting in the Bajau tribe community in Buton Regency? The questions arising from the formulation of the problem serve as the basis for determining the research objectives, which are to analyze the relationships that occur during the collaboration process in preventing and handling stunting in the Bajau tribe community in Buton Regency.

II. Literature Review

Stunting, which refers to the hindered growth and development of children caused by malnutrition, is a significant public health concern that has garnered global attention, particularly in Indonesia, as it strives to achieve its Golden Indonesia 2045 vision (Pangastuti, 2020; Formen, 2018; Nawaludin, 2023). The high occurrence of stunting is a significant obstacle to attaining favorable demographic outcomes and sustainable development goals (SDGs). Theoretical frameworks that address public health interventions emphasize the complex character of stunting, connecting socioeconomic determinants, maternal education, healthcare accessibility, and community involvement as crucial elements that influence stunting rates (Hall et al., 2018; Wirth et al., 2017). Recent studies emphasize the importance of implementing systematic interventions at both national and regional levels to effectively reduce stunting. It is crucial to recognize that localized efforts should take into account the specific cultural and socio-economic contexts, such as those found in the Buton Regency region of Southeast Sulawesi.

The theory of socioeconomic determinants of health offers a significant perspective for comprehending the elevated incidence of stunting within the Bajau Tribe population. Income, occupational position, education, and healthcare access are important factors that strongly

influence the nutritional status of children. The economic limitations and lack of educational opportunities within the Bajau community have been proven to worsen the prevalence of stunting. Previous research has established a clear link between poor socioeconomic status and negative health effects (Nutakor et al., 2023). Moreover, research suggests that indigenous communities, such as the Bajau, encounter extra obstacles in both accessing formal healthcare services and receiving health education that is culturally suitable. These factors contribute to the higher occurrence of stunting in these communities (Duran, 2024; Ramenzoni, 2023).

The creation of the Stunting Acceleration Team by the government of Buton Regency represents a significant collaborative approach to tackling public health concerns, highlighting the importance of multi-sector cooperation in combating stunting. The collaborative governance framework, as outlined by Emerson and Nabatchi (2015), delineates the processes by which a variety of stakeholders, including as government agencies, healthcare providers, and community organizations, can collaborate to identify and overcome obstacles to the implementation of successful health initiatives. This framework promotes the concept of community-centered methods, emphasizing that active engagement can better the implementation of health initiatives. It provides a foundation for understanding how collaboration can improve health outcomes in disadvantaged communities. The study utilizes a qualitative-descriptive research approach to emphasize effective interactions among stakeholders and to identify notable obstacles to community engagement. The social circumstances, including cultural standards and a deficiency of confidence between the community and government authorities, hinder genuine communication and involvement in health interventions (Fotso, 2006). Incorporating the health belief model (Rosenstock, 1974) can offer valuable insights into how individual beliefs of health risks and benefits influence community participation in initiatives aimed at reducing stunting. If these impediments are not addressed, the collaboration may not achieve the anticipated health outcomes, suggesting a possible deficiency in the implementation of health activities targeting the Bajau tribe.

This literature analysis demonstrates the intricate relationship between socioeconomic issues, collaborative governance, and community participation in addressing stunting in the Bajau Tribe community in Buton Regency. Theoretical frameworks explored highlight the importance of acknowledging the distinct cultural and socio-economic situations of indigenous groups. They also emphasize the crucial requirement for customized interventions that empower these communities. Future study should investigate the long-term impact of collaboration on the prevalence of stunting. Lessons could be drawn from successful models

deployed in similar demographic circumstances to develop scalable interventions that can guide policy and practice in Indonesia and other regions.

III. Research Methodologies

The author employs a qualitative approach in this study because of the method's ability to disclose phenomena or facts that are pertinent to the welfare of the Bajau community. Qualitative research is distinguished by its descriptive nature, which involves understanding the research subject's experiences and their subsequent representation in language and words. The operational concepts include indicators that are based on the theory of Ansell and Gash (2007). They are meant to look into the different aspects of collaborative governance in the Bajau Community in Buton Regency as they relate to managing and preventing stunting. In numerous qualitative studies, researchers spend a significant amount of time in natural environments and acquire a variety of data. Creswell (2017) identifies four sources of data that may be employed in qualitative research:

1. Observation

Qualitative observation is when the researcher makes field notes about the behavior and activities of individuals at the research site. In these field notes, the researcher records, in an unstructured or semi-structured way (using some prior questions that the researcher wants to know), the activities at the research site. The researcher may also engage in roles that vary from non-participant to full participant.

2. Interview

Interview data is collected through face-to-face interviews with participants, but it can also be conducted over the phone or in focus group interviews with six to eight interviewees in each group. These interviews involve unstructured, generally open-ended questions that are few and intended to elicit the views and opinions of the informants.

3. Documentation

Documentation is done by collecting information related to the research through various public documents (newspapers, meeting minutes, official reports of institutions) or personal documents (personal journals, diaries, letters, and e-mails).

4. Audiovisual and Digital Materials

This data can be photographs, art objects, video recordings, website home pages, emails, text messages, social media texts, or any form of sound. Include creative data collection procedures that fall under visual ethnography. In addition, data can also be obtained from life stories, metaphorical visual narratives, and digital archives.

Based on these four research sources, the researcher will conduct a data search in the place where this research was conducted, namely Buton Regency. By directly visiting villages with populations of Bajau communities, the researcher hopes to make in-depth observations of the stunting problems experienced. Researchers will also collect data from various parties within the Buton Regency government and other actors through interviews and examination of available documents related to stunting alleviation.

Research informants are experts in their fields who can provide a clear perspective on the topic under study. There are four characteristics of ideal field research informants, according to Neuman (2014), namely:

1. Informants who are familiar with the culture, can observe significant events within it, and are also able to interact with the environment are essential.
2. Some people or individuals are still directly related to and associated with the field today. This individual, when no longer working and not directly involved with the field conditions, is more likely to reconstruct their memories.
3. Individuals can spend time with the author. Of course, an interview session can take a long time, even hours.
4. Non-analytic individuals are better informants. An analytic, setting-analyzing individual educated in the social sciences can learn to respond non-analytically if the individual does not think about education and uses his or her perspective.

Based on these criteria, researchers will conduct interviews with several people who have sufficient competence and knowledge about collaborative governance in efforts to prevent and handle stunting in the Bajau Tribe Community in Buton Regency. In this study, informants were selected using the purposive sampling technique. According to Arikunto (2010), "purposive sampling is a sample selection process that selects informant subjects based on specific objectives rather than certain levels or areas."

IV. Result and Discussion

Buton Regency Stunting Reduction Acceleration Team

The stunting reduction and prevention acceleration program in Buton Regency has been implemented since 2019 through Regent Regulation Number 47 of 2019. This regulation is the main reference for the birth of several derivative regulations, one of which is the decision letter for the formation of the Buton District Stunting Reduction Acceleration Team, or Tim Percepatan Penurunan Stunting (TPPS). The TPPS involves several elements, which are as follows:

Regional Government;

- a. Stakeholders;
- b. Non-governmental organizations;
- c. Traditional, religious, community, youth, women leaders;
- d. Press personnel; and
- e. The community.

According to Buton Regent Decree Number 359 of 2022 concerning Amendments to Buton Regent Decree Number 117 of 2022 concerning the Buton Regency Stunting Reduction Acceleration Team, it is found that the Regent of Buton serves as the chairman of the steering committee, while the Regional Secretary of Buton Regency serves as the Chief Executive. Bappeda holds two important roles: deputy chief executive with the PKK and chair of the Convergence and Planning Coordination Division. The Population Control and Family Planning Office, where Bappeda serves as the Executive Secretary, is the leading sector in this program. The non-government stakeholders can be seen in the Data, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Knowledge Management Division, which is chaired by the Rector of Dayanu Ikhsanudin University.

The TPPS has given each stakeholder a set of tasks and responsibilities. This is in line with Buton Regent Regulation Number 47 of 2019 on the Acceleration of Integrated Stunting Prevention and Handling in Buton Regency.

1. Role of Local Government Apparatus

- a. The Health Office, has the following duties:
 - To provide guidance in enhancing the nutritional status of the community,
 - Conducting guidance in improving community nutrition knowledge;
 - Conducting guidance on stunting prevention;
 - Create a health promotion strategy.
 - Carry out improved nutrition surveillance;
 - Strengthening nutrition supplementation interventions for pregnant women and toddlers;
 - Providing supplementary food for chronically undernourished pregnant women;
 - Providing supplementary food for malnourished children under five
 - Conducting micronutrient supplementation;
 - Conducting guidance in improving delivery at health service facilities;

- Conducting guidance in the implementation of STBM; and
- Performing filariasis and helminthiasis disease control services.
- b. The Agriculture Office and Food Security Office have the following tasks:
 - Collecting data on target families for the 1000 (one thousand) First Days of Life program;
 - Forming KRPL groups
 - Forming a Food Independent Area group;
 - Monitoring and evaluating the development of KRPL, and
 - Ensuring a Safe Food Village.
- c. The Housing and Settlement Office have the following tasks:
 - Collecting data on sanitation and clean water in the village, especially the targets of the 1000 (one thousand) First Days of Life program;
 - Planning sanitation facilities for village communities, especially those targeted by the 1000 (one thousand) First Days of Life program; and
 - Providing clean water facilities to the community.
- d. The Education Office, has the following tasks:
 - Organizing early childhood education in the village;
 - Conducting parenting classes;
 - Strengthening School Health Efforts; and
 - Providing School Sanitation.
- e. The Office of Population Control and Family Planning, has the following tasks:
 - Improving the promotion of parenting in the target program of the First 1000 (one thousand) Days of Life; and
 - Promote and socialize balanced nutrition, breastfeeding, limiting consumption of sugar, salt and fat, reproductive health, and the dangers of smoking for children and families.
- f. The Social Service Office has the following tasks:
 - Conducting Family Development Session (FDS) on the Family Hope program; and
 - Beneficiary families who receive food social assistance.
- g. The Population and Civil Registration Office, has the task of conducting Civil Registration (Birth Certificate, Population Identification Number).

- h. The Office of Communication, Informatics and Signage, has the task of disseminating information through print and electronic media regarding stunting.
- i. The Community and Village Empowerment Office, has the task of :
 - Coordinating villages to allocate budget from the Village Budget; and
 - Identifying potential operational financing for Human Development Cadres in the intervention to accelerate the prevention and handling of integrated stunting in villages.
- j. The Office of Regional Development Planning, has the following tasks:
 - Coordinating the planning of activities to accelerate the prevention and handling of integrated stunting;
 - Strengthening coordination of planning for the acceleration of integrated stunting prevention and handling; and
 - Advocating for the implementation of policies to accelerate the prevention and handling of integrated stunting.
- k. Regional Finance and Asset Agency, has the task of coordinating the budgeting of activities to accelerate the prevention and handling of integrated stunting by regional apparatus.
- l. Family Welfare Empowerment or Pemberdayaan Kesejahteraan Keluarga (PKK) Team, has the task of:
 - Monitor the health of newborns (0-30 days old);
 - Monitor the running of Posyandu;
 - Conduct orientation on local food-based complementary food processing;
 - Train village PKK cadres to process diverse, nutritionally balanced and safe food for family nutrition;
 - Conducting socialization of the 5 (five) pillars of STBM; and
 - Conducting stunting socialization at the village level.
- m. Kecamatan, has the task of :
 - Supporting village governments in planning, implementing and monitoring and evaluating programs/activities to accelerate the prevention and handling of integrated stunting sourced from the Village Budget;
 - Support the mobilization and provision of incentives for Human Development Cadres; and

- Supporting public campaigns and Behavior Change Communication (BCC) at the village level.
2. Village Government, has the role of:
- Planning programs/activities to support the acceleration and handling of stunting at the district level;
 - Allocation of funds for the acceleration of integrated stunting prevention and handling through the village/kelurahan revenue and expenditure budget;
 - Implementation of activities to accelerate the prevention and handling of integrated stunting in accordance with procedures and must be coordinated with cross-sectors;
 - Monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of integrated stunting prevention and handling activities carried out in an integrated manner every month and reported in writing to the Regent through the Regional Secretary of Buton Regency.
3. Community, has a role:
- Play a role in realizing the acceleration of integrated stunting prevention and handling.
 - Conveying problems, input and/or solutions to problems.

Relationship Between Stakeholders

To accomplish the intended objectives, collaborative governance necessitates the collaboration of numerous stakeholders. To demonstrate the distinct authorities and boundaries of stakeholders or related parties, collaboration between these parties is necessary. The multi-sectoral role is not solely the responsibility of the government; it also lies with non-governmental organizations and civil society, as stunting is a complex issue that necessitates a multi-dimensional approach. The government collaborates with other institutions and civil society to reduce malnutrition in Buton Regency.

a. Intergovernmental and Community Relations

As a level II government, the Buton Regency Government is involved in the implementation of the stunting reduction acceleration program, which has become a national priority agenda item. The program involves the Buton community, including the Bajau Tribe community, by facilitating a discussion forum in Rembuk Stunting. An interview with the Head of the Government and Community Development Division of the Buton Regency, or

BAPPEDA, reveals that the annual "Rembuk Stunting" serves as the primary platform for various elements to participate in the exchange of opinions.

The government, through the health office, also plays a role in optimizing health units at Puskesmas and Posyandu through scheduled counseling and Posyandu programs. The health office also recruits civil society to become posyandu cadres. The cadre approach effectively addresses the government's shortage of human resources. This is in line with the findings from the author's interview with the Head of the Nutrition Bimdal Section of the Buton District Health Office, who expressed gratitude for the presence of posyandu cadres from the community, who assisted health officers with tasks such as disseminating health information and weighing toddlers (Rasdiyanti, 2024).

The cadre approach to community involvement is a method frequently used by several agencies within Buton District, such as the Social Service through PKH cadres and the BKKBN through family planning cadres. Although established through a Regent's Decree, the relationship between cadres and OPDs is that they are partners, so the community is not normatively bound to the government.

There are several obstacles experienced in handling stunting related to the relationship between the government and the Bajau community, where the community is still passive and does not have the awareness and initiative to follow the directions of health workers. This is based on an interview with a nutritionist at Siotapina Health Center, who found it difficult to encourage Bajau people to go to the posyandu and engage in socialization (Farida, 2024). Although the Puskesmas have sent a message to the village government to encourage the community to attend Posyandu in order to support the government's stunting program, it has proven to be less effective than expected.

From the community's perspective, the stunting consultation was not a balanced forum. Several confessions from the Bajau community said that they rarely attended village meetings. This was also confirmed by the Balimu Village Head during an interview, who mentioned the passive role of the Bajau community in submitting suggestions about the stunting program (Bondo, 2024). Despite this, the community, as the target of the stunting reduction policy, feels supported by the government's assistance. The cadre approach brings the community closer to the services provided by the government.

Direct government relations are evident in the policies and innovations that the government provides to the community, aimed at implementing the stunting reduction and handling acceleration programmes. These innovations can be seen in Table 3 below.

Table 3. Government's Innovations of Buton Regency

No	Group of Innovations	Form of Innovations
1	Campaign to Prevent Stunting	STUFF: Teen Comics, Glassware, Agenda, Calendar
2	Rembuk Stunting	Contains Sub-district Workshops to overcome budget constraints
3	Local Food Ingredients	Lato-Lato protein, Smoked Fish, California Papaya Tree Planting for vitamin needs, yard utilization, Rice Stunting (if any), G. Menor (Moringa Planting and Consumption Movement), and G. Kelor (Moringa Planting and Consumption Movement).
4	Regulation	The process of facility, health insurance, and UHC Award from BPJS Kesehatan
5	Posyandu Services	Weighing Party, Procurement of measurement tables, and Integrated Posyandu Services
6	Collaboration between Local Government Appartus /institutions in the First 1000 Days of Life	MOU between the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Prospective Brides/Grooms, Health, Decree of the Ministry of Religious Affairs on Interfaith Coordination for Accelerating Stunting Reduction within the Ministry of Religious Affairs, Motivation for Exclusive Breastfeeding by BKKNM, Activities of Distributing Milk and Eggs for Children and Stunting Prevention, Nutritious Action in Schools
7	Organizing the Behavioral Change Communication Forum (Prevent Stunting)	Training of KPM Cadres on Behavioral Change

Source: Bappeda Kabupaten Buton, 2023 (modified by the author)

Table 3 above shows seven innovations that the Buton Regency Government, specifically the Local Government Apparatus (OPD), has undertaken to pursue the government's goal of reducing stunting and increasing public awareness about stunting. The Buton Regency Government also collaborates with the Ministry of Religious Affairs through

the Regional Office of the Minister of Religious Affairs in Buton Regency to provide marriage education to prospective brides and grooms as a preventive and promotional measure for prospective mothers.

According to interview data and the table above, the relationship between the government and the community has been good so far, especially due to several approaches taken by the government, such as providing incentives and partnering with cadres who can bring civil services closer to the community. However, several factors pose challenges, such as the community's level of education, which affects their low awareness of attending the posyandu (maternal and child health service post) and their low active participation in communicating during stunting deliberation forums. Other influential factors include social, cultural, and political considerations from the village heads, which aim to encourage the community to attend health counseling sessions at the local health centers.

b. Relationship Between the Government and Non-Governmental Organizations

One of the indicators of good governance is the involvement of other institutions outside the government. Currently, Buton Regency has several non-governmental institutions, including private entities, community organizations, and traditional institutions. Private entities, as profit-seeking organizations, should commit to or contribute to improving the quality of life in the community. This contribution is known as CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility), regulated by Article 2 of Government Regulation Number 47 of 2012 concerning Social and Environmental Responsibility of Limited Liability Companies, which explains that every company as a legal entity has social and environmental responsibilities.

Currently, several private entities in Buton Regency are obligated to distribute CSR, such as Bank Sultra, which provides CSR assistance to several areas in Southeast Sulawesi Province, including Buton Regency. However, in the stunting reduction program in Buton Regency, the private sector is not visible at stunting deliberation events, nor do they have a direct role in the Buton Regency Stunting Reduction Acceleration Team, unlike other non-governmental organizations such as academics and the press. This involvement should be bolstered by a specific regional regulation governing the CSR distribution process. According to Buton Regency's BAPPEDA, the issue with CSR is a lack of clearly defined government cooperation channels (Hastuti, 2024). The unclear authority and responsibility regarding the receipt process are barriers to CSR implementation.

Nevertheless, some contributions from the private sector greatly assist the government of Buton Regency, such as PT Sarihusada, which provides short courses to health workers in the Health Office and the Population Control and Family Planning Office of Buton Regency.

PT Sarihusada conducts these training sessions by bringing pediatric specialists to discussion forums to enhance the knowledge and skills of health workers in Buton Regency. Interviews with the Head of the Nutrition and Occupational Health and Sports Health Division of the Buton Regency Health Office revealed the benefits of CSR from PT Sarihusada, which offers guidance on stunting. This training has proven helpful for health workers to align their understanding since they are trained by pediatric specialists who are well-versed in stunting issues (Rasdiyanti, 2024). This training is expected to address medical challenges in the field, such as the limited availability of specialists.

So far, the increase in government capacity, both financially and in terms of skills, has been well-supported by the private sector. However, there is a lack of visible interaction between the government and traditional institutions. Although the role of traditional institutions in stunting management is less significant, in some areas where cultural values are still strongly adhered to, the role of traditional institutions is still needed, such as in the Bajau community in Buton Regency. According to the Bajau tribal chief in Bahari Makmur Village, their participation in government activities is limited to traditional events (Hamer, 2024).

Based on interviews and findings, it can be observed that non-governmental organizations in Buton Regency have been quite helpful in supporting government programs, including stunting reduction. The interactions are dominated by the private sector's assistance to the government in the form of CSR and training. However, interactions between the government and these institutions are still very rare, especially with traditional institutions. If traditional institutions can be empowered and utilized, they can significantly assist the government in supporting stunting reduction programs, particularly in Bajau villages.

c. Relationship Between the Community and Non-Governmental Organizations

The interaction that occurs the least in the handling of stunting is between non-governmental organizations and the community of Buton Regency. This is due to the government sector serving as the program's backbone. The students who represent the academic sector in providing education related to their fields, such as public health and nursing, are highly appreciated by the community. The Bajau community, which recognizes the role of students from UNIDAYAN, experiences this firsthand. In their community activities, such as community service (KKN), they help build sanitation facilities for Bajau residents scattered throughout the village, as well as conduct socialization activities about clean and healthy living patterns for the surrounding population.

Although less visible, the private sector also plays a role in contributing to the development of Buton Regency's community. However, because their contributions are

channeled through the government, the community perceives these aids as coming from the government. One of the programs from the private sector is the construction of sanitation facilities in Bajo village.

According to the author's observations in Balimu Village, this program is running well and has been appreciated by the Bajau community. So far, the Bajau people have only used very simple and unhealthy conventional toilets. However, the program has not yet been able to reach the entire village, especially in Bahari Makmur Village and Bajo Bahari Village. This program can be seen in Figure 2 below.



Source: Author Documentation, 2023

Figure 2. Balimu Village's Healthy Toilet Construction Program

The author's research findings indicate that the role of stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations, is very important. The interaction between the community and non-governmental organizations is not optimal, and the government is still needed to facilitate this interaction. Nevertheless, interaction between non-governmental organizations and civil society is critical to providing contributions, whether in the form of knowledge or financial support, to the community's welfare.

V. Conclusion

Based on the discussion, the authors conclude that the relationships among stakeholders vary across different parties. The author has analyzed these relationships intense. The government has introduced several innovative programs to directly intervene in stunting in the community. Additionally, the appointment of community cadres serves as an important bridge to bring government services closer to the people. However, the health centers face challenges in the outreach process, particularly in Posyandu. These challenges stem from the community's lack of awareness and initiative to participate in government programs, as well as political considerations that prevent the Bajau Village Government from encouraging the Bajau community to follow these programs.

Besides, the relationship between the government and non-governmental organizations is dynamic. There are private entities providing training assistance to Buton Regency health workers on stunting as part of their CSR efforts, but there are unclear regulations governing the CSR flow from private entities to the community. Academic institutions also contribute by raising awareness and knowledge among the community. Unfortunately, traditional institutions are less involved in outreach efforts, which is crucial in Bajau Village.

Lastly, the relationship between non-governmental organizations and the community is minimal because both parties still rely on the government as an intermediary. However, some private entities are willing to accept direct assistance requests from the community and channel CSR directly into infrastructure development, such as building toilets in Bajau Village.

Based on research, analysis, and interviews conducted in the field, the author can provide the following recommendations:

1. The government should provide opportunities for civil society to express their opinions during deliberations on stunting measures.
2. Each regional apparatus can maximize cooperation, particularly in relation to achieving convergence action targets according to their respective roles and programs.
3. The government should establish clearer regional regulations regarding the obligations and channels for private donations or corporate social responsibility (CSR).
4. The government should better optimize the use of traditional institutions in the implementation of programs aimed at accelerating the reduction and handling of stunting within the Bajau community in Buton Regency.
5. The private sector should provide the community with more tangible assistance through infrastructure development.
6. The Bajau Village Government should be more active in supporting government programs, particularly in encouraging the community to participate in government activities.

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