

Networking Governance in Handling Stunting in West Java

Fatmawati, Salamandara Prila Aulin, Yayan Andri

Public Administration, Faculty of Social and Humaniora, Bandung Muhammadiyah
University, Indonesia. (email: fatmawati@umbandung.ac.id,
salamandaraprilaaulin@gmail.com, yayan.andri@umbandung.ac.id)

Abstract

Handling stunting in West Java requires cross-sectoral efforts involving all integrated stakeholders through coordination and consolidation of various programs. Mainly in increasing public awareness, health services, and access to clean environment and sanitation. This research analyzes how networking governance in handling stunting in West Java. The research method used is qualitative in the form of data collection techniques, with direct interviews and documentation studies. As well as analyzing data interactively. Meanwhile, for data validity in this study using source triangulation. The results showed that the role of actors in the network for handling stunting in West Java involved multi-stakeholders as a cross-leadership collaboration. In developing the network, it is necessary to involve the role of government, private partners, academics, and the community in managing their resources, implementing plans with a deliberative approach before decision making.

Keywords:

networking governance; stunting; actors

Introduction

One of the problems faced by children in the modern world is nutritional problems that lead to the prevalence of short children, often referred to as stunting. The phenomenon of stunting is often influenced by economic factors, especially poverty, low education, and inadequate health services. Likewise, in Indonesia, the problem of stunting is a public health problem with a relatively high incidence rate. (Mediani, 2022). Recorded from 2021, Indonesia has 24.4% of stunting cases. One of the provinces in Indonesia that still has a fairly high stunting rate is North Sumatra Province, recorded until 2022, the stunting rate throughout Indonesia was 24% with the average case occurring in North Sumatra with a rate of 25.7%. Based on data from the 2022 Indonesian Nutrition Status Study (SSGI), the prevalence of stunting in Indonesia has decreased from 24.4% in 2021 to 21.6%. This shows that the figure is still above the target set by the World Health Organization (WHO), which is 20%. Stunting has a significant impact on children, both in the long and short term. One of the most common and visible impacts is that children tend to be shorter in height than other children their age and become more susceptible to disease. In addition, stunting can also cause a decrease in cognitive function, namely intelligence and thinking. The impact of stunting is huge on children's health until adulthood. The childhood period, namely 1000 HPK (First Day of Birth) is the golden period of children by optimizing

nutritional needs in children so that their growth and development are maximized and avoid stunting. (Yuwanti, 2021).

Efforts to accelerate stunting reduction in West Java Province in 2022 have yielded positive results, this is indicated by a decrease in the stunting prevalence rate of 24.50 percent in 2021 based on 2021 SSGI data to 20.2 percent based on SSGI in 2022 or a decrease of 4.3 percent. However, with a prevalence rate that is still at the threshold of <20 percent or one-fifth of the total toddlers in accordance with WHO standards, the reduction of stunting in West Java Province still needs serious attention. The West Java Provincial Government has demonstrated its commitment with the existence of Governor Regulation Number 107 of 2020 concerning the Acceleration of Stunting Reduction in the West Java Province area and West Java Governor Decree Number 441.05/Kep.829 Bapp/2021 concerning the West Java Province Regional Stunting Reduction Acceleration Team (TPPS). In addition, in the 2018-2023 Regional Medium-Term Development Plan (RPJMD), the stunting prevalence target at the end of the RPJMD period in 2023 is 19.2 percent, this figure certainly requires extraordinary efforts to realize it. (Regional Government of West Java Province Year 2023.) Some previous studies have been widely discussed by previous researchers as has been done by Rati Sumanti (2024) in the study explains how the role of stakeholders in implementing collaborative governance as an effort to handle stunting by involving the role of actors as policy makers, facilitators, coordinators, implementers, and accelerators. The second research was conducted by Nabila Fahira Nasution, (2024) which in her research explains how the Medan City government in North Sumatra involves various sectors and government agencies and conducts direct communication to coordinate. Third, in research conducted by Salsabila (2023) conducted an interesting study related to actors in collaborative governance in handling stunting in the Tanjung Mas urban village of Semarang City. In contrast to previous research, the author wants to try to fill the research gap by using a networking governance approach as the main thing in the analysis.

The notion of network governance emerged as a result of the complexity in the decision-making process and policy implementation. The development of public issues that cause decision making to become increasingly complex so that more opportunities are open for the emergence of more diverse policy options or alternatives, (Yudiatmaja, 2015) Government or government is more institutional in nature while governance or governance emphasizes more on institutional aspects and networking with various other actors (Henry, 2018). From these small memories, fundamentally a governance will certainly interact and form networks with other actors outside the government, they fill the gaps and complement each other's needs in solving existing public problems. The term network in governance is called networking governance (Rahardian, 2024). Kapachu theory on Networks in governance are indispensable to the parties involved in the

process. In various cases, existing networks move as social actors with an interest in handling to achieve the desired goals. Based on the explanation above, this research seeks to analyze how the existing network in West Java Province in handling stunting prevention involves the leadership of existing stakeholders to implement plans with a deliberative approach before decision making.

Methods

This research uses qualitative research with a descriptive approach. This research has a research locus on how the role of networked actors in handling stunting in West Java Province. The qualitative research method is one way that is able to produce descriptive data by observing the behavior of the subject and this approach is also able to show the setting and the individual as a whole, such as the subject of investigation in the form of individuals and organizations as well as being able to broaden the view (Furchan, 1992). Furchan (1992) say according to Creswell, qualitative research begins with the assumption of using a theoretical framework in the form of operationalizing theory to interpret research problems related to society as a group and humans as actors. Qualitative researchers study problems by conducting investigations, collecting data from the people and places studied, and analyzing data inductively and deductively, and establishing patterns or themes. The final written report or presentation includes the voices of participants, researcher reflexivity, complex explanations and interpretations of the problem, and the contribution of the research to the literature or calls for change. (Creswell, 2018). This research method is used by the author to discuss Networking Governance in Handling Stunting in West Java Province. There were three informants in this study, as follows (Table 1). The author's data collection techniques were interviews and documentation studies with interactive data analysis techniques, and data validity using source triangulation.

Table 1.
Research Informants

No.	Informant Name	Position	Interview Type
1.	Muhammad Haidir Ali	Technical Assistant of Stunting Reduction Acceleration Team of West Java Province	Direct
2.	Syaidan Nur Daniswara	GENRE Ambassador	Online
3.	Sita Febrianti Roslan	Family Health Nutrition Team Leader	Online

Source: Processed by Researchers, 2024

Results and Discussion

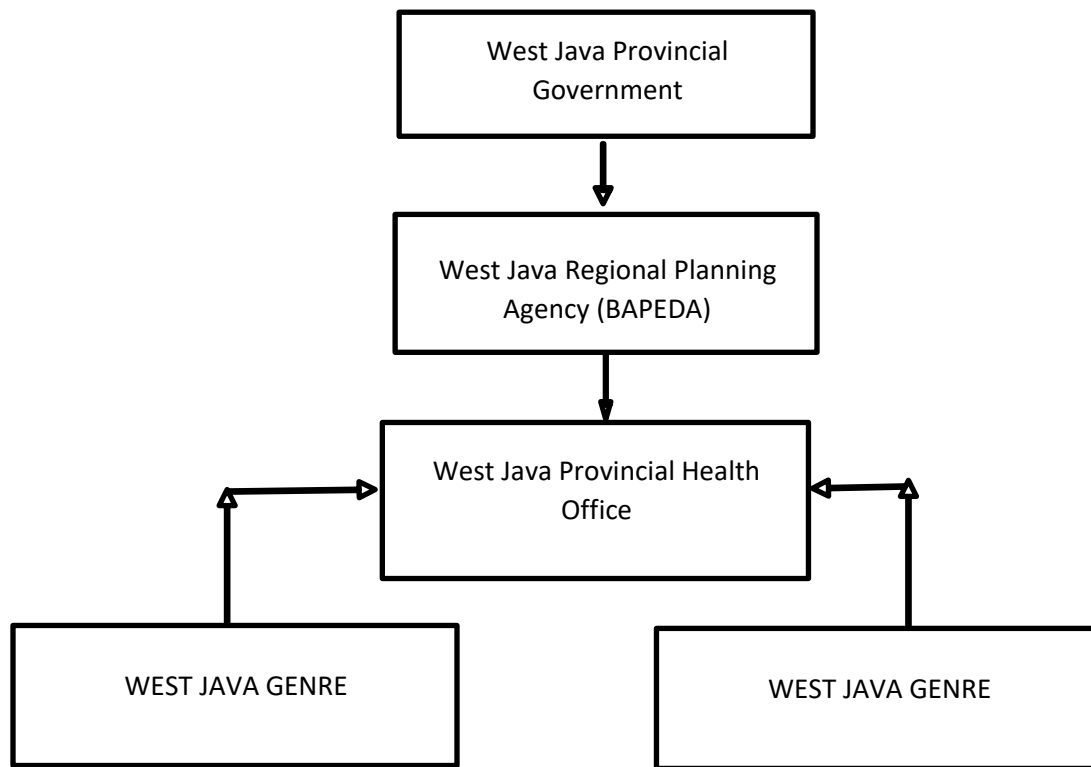
The State of Stunting in Indonesia

Based on the results of the Indonesian Nutrition Status Study or SSGI 2022, the prevalence of stunting in Indonesia has decreased from 24.4% in 2021 to only 21.6%. However, this figure is still above the target set by the World Health Organization (WHO) of 20%. Although the prevalence of stunting decreased, the prevalence of underweight and wasting increased. The prevalence of underweight increased from 17% to 17.1%, while wasting increased from 7.1% to 7.7%. Based on SSGI 2022 data, the highest prevalence of stunting by age is in East Nusa Tenggara Province (35.3%). Although NTT is in the top position, the prevalence or incidence of stunting in NTT is decreasing, which previously touched a level of (37.8%) in 2021. Then the highest order this was followed by West Sulawesi at (35%). Then followed by West Papua (34.6%) and West Nusa Tenggara which has a prevalence of stunting (32.7%). Meanwhile, the highest prevalence of wasting toddlers according to height is in Maluku Province (11.9%), for the prevalence of underweight toddlers according to age is in East Nusa Tenggara province (28.4%), and for the prevalence of overweight toddlers is in Belitung Province (7.6%). The results of the Indonesian Nutrition Status Study or SSGI data in 2022 also stated that there were 18 provinces that had a prevalence of stunting above the national average and 16 provinces were below the national average stunting rate. The province with the lowest national stunting rate is Bali, which only has a percentage of 8%, far below the national stunting rate in 2022. In an effort to realize the acceleration of stunting reduction in Indonesia with a target in 2024 of 14%, the government has a role as director, regulator, and implementer. One of its efforts is to make the target of reducing the prevalence of wasting and stunting in children under five in Indonesia the main target of the 2020-2024 RPJMN. However, efforts to reduce stunting are not solely the task of the health sector, but must also go through multisectoral action (BKKBN, 2021).

In looking at the analytical aspects, Kapucu & Hu explain several important dimensions of networked governance. First, in networking governance, the first aspect in the unit of analysis is network management and leadership. In this sense, a public manager performs his or her duties within the network to ensure effective collaboration, focusing on the process of: identifying members, developing trust, mobilizing resources, setting rules, managing conflicts, etc. The second dimension of networking governance is knowledge management and information exchange within the network. When a network already exists and is well established, it is important to create, capture, retrieve, integrate and distribute knowledge to enhance learning within the network. Third, the dimension in network governance is power and decision-making. In this sense, network governance requires controlling power in the network to ensure effective and sustainable collaboration (Rahardian, 2024).

Management and Leadership: Addressing Stunting in West Java

Handling stunting in West Java Province is certainly carried out by various actors in a previously agreed policy. Handling stunting certainly cannot be done alone, but must prioritize collaboration and the formation of existing networks in the process. In building the existing network, the actors involved will certainly be briefed primarily to complement each other's resources so that the handling of stunting in West Java Province reaches the community. Handling stunting in West Java is a multidimensional problem that requires cross-sectoral efforts involving all stakeholders in an integrated manner through coordination and consolidation of programs and activities at the central, regional and village levels. The West Java Provincial Government has shown commitment with the existence of Governor Regulation Number 107 of 2020 concerning the Acceleration of Stunting Reduction in the West Java Province Region and West Java Governor Decree Number 441.05/Kep.829 Bapp/2021 concerning the West Java Province Regional Stunting Reduction Acceleration Team (TPPS). In the 2018-2023 Regional Medium-Term Development Plan (RPJMD), the stunting prevalence target at the end of the RPJMD period in 2023 is 19.2 percent. (Regional Government of West Java Province in 2023.). Based on the results of interviews with BAPEDA, it is known that the stunting handling program is a priority which is then integrated in the planning documents of the long-term part of the RPJP for up to 25 years or the RPJMD which is 5 years or the RKPD which is 1 year and also ensures that handling stunting is included as a priority in the work plan so as to ensure it is included in the planning. The obstacles in implementing the stunting handling program, BAPEDA said in the interview were from its human resources both at the provincial level to the lower levels. For example, posyandu cadres are old and have different age backgrounds. Meanwhile, information obtained in interviews with the health department stated that the strategy in reducing stunting rates in West Java Province is to involve all stakeholders, not only from the top level, but also from the lower level. This means that the problem of handling stunting in West Java is carried out hand in hand with reference to the same goal. The management and leadership can be seen from the following chart. (Chart 1)



Source: Processed by Researchers, 2024

Interviews conducted with Duta Genre resulted in the role of relevant stakeholders in reducing stunting in West Java with pentahelix, which is a stakeholder consisting of the government sector, media, community, academics and also business people. From GENRE itself, there are educational modules and also youth actions for nutrition and anemia prevention that are made based on the conditions of the community in West Java. GENRE is inclusive and goes directly to the field to coordinate with BKKBN. In its engagement with stakeholders, GENRE first creates a program and then provides a proposal so that they can find out how the program is run. Resources and strategies are important aspects of networking governance, as these dimensions play an important role in seeing the success and failure of the existing network in handling stunting conditions in West Java Province. Research from Nasution, (2024) shows that in carrying out a collaborative governance in the stunting prevention program in Medan City, the role of stakeholders from various sectors and government agencies is needed based on contact aspects, namely establishing organization and work procedures, trust, information sharing, resource exchange. Ease of access to resources makes it easy for performance to achieve the goals of the network cooperation that exists in the stunting prevention program in Medan City based on this research.

Knowledge Management Actors in the Network

The involvement of governance actors in the existing network is concluded to have the same goal. The involvement of actor networks is the initial key in the formation of existing problem solving. The actors involved in handling stunting in West Java Province have the same goal of reducing stunting rates and preventing stunting growth by educating the public through planned programs. Research conducted by Bonso & Suranto (2018) shows that the involvement of governance actors in existing problems is able to provide network effectiveness between existing actors to jointly solve public problems that need more attention. The actors involved in handling stunting in West Java Province conduct dialogue and discussion so that the existing vision and mission understanding can be used to build planned coordination so that the proposed programs can be implemented. During 2023, the Stunting Reduction Acceleration Team (TPPS) has implemented various innovations in an effort to accelerate stunting reduction in West Java.

This innovation involves many relevant stakeholders as a form of convergence to reduce stunting in West Java. TPPS has 6 divisions with different program focuses, but have the same goal to accelerate stunting reduction in West Java Province. In the first division, TPPS creates events with stunting sub-themes and produces various innovations in the field of research and research in accelerating stunting reduction. The second division of TPPS conducts planning and funding to encourage and support the acceleration of stunting management in the regions. In addition, this division also coordinates the implementation of stunting reduction programs and means of evaluating stunting reduction programs in West Java. In the third division, TPPS launched an application called *Health Heroes Nutrihunt* for digital literacy that invites the role of adolescents in West Java to pay attention to balanced nutrition consumption. In addition, this division also conducts the strengthening of pregnant women's classes and balanced nutrition education, then strengthening the screening of eligible pregnant women for fertile couples and prospective brides, the socialization of maternal and child health (KIA) books, orientation by PUSPA in growth monitoring for PAUD cadres/teachers, integrated monitoring and evaluation of the acceleration of stunting reduction, efforts to reduce diarrhea programs in West Java in accelerating stunting reduction, efforts to reduce helminthiasis programs in West Java in order to accelerate stunting reduction, immunization program efforts, and efforts to increase *open defecation free* villages.

Decision Making in the Stunting Response Network in West Java

In the fourth division, TPPS West Java Province conducts a program to provide animal protein packages for stunting prevention and control in stunting locus areas. In addition, it provides education and understanding to parents of toddlers about the importance of consuming various nutritious foods. The fifth division of TPPS implements programs using social media as a means of communication, information, and education about efforts to reduce stunting. The last

division, TPPS West Java Province partners in the Stunting Foster Child Assistance or BAAS program. This program is an initiative that aims to prevent stunting in children. The concept of this program is implemented with gotong royong, where the community is able to play an active role in helping stunted children from underprivileged families. In addition, another program that seeks to reduce stunting in West Java is the Rumah Aisyiyah Jabar Program in collaboration with the Regional Government, Health Office, Non-Governmental Organizations, and Educational Institutions.

Finally, the Better Investment for Stunting Alleviation (BISA) program is the result of collaboration between the West Java Provincial Government and Save the Children Indonesia and Nutrition International. The locus of this program in West Java is West Bandung and Sumedang Districts. BISA's contribution in its efforts to accelerate stunting reduction by collaborating with the Provincial Government and Regional Governments to realize Perpres 72/2021, collaborating with West Java BAPPEDA, being involved in the TPPS formation meeting, and facilitating the formation of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) movement. The success of various stunting handling programs in West Java Province as a result of collaboration and actor networks and the involvement of existing stakeholders can be seen through the data presentation described above. The concept of actor networks in government collaboration in handling stunting in West Java Province can answer existing problems. The informant above explained that the existence of an understanding of goals and perceptions can create good coordination and cooperation by each implementer. A shared understanding creates work effectiveness and efficiency in the sustainability of stunting handling program planning in West Java. In addition, the results of interviews with various informants showed a common goal to reduce the stunting rate and realize the planned program. Various obstacles that occur in the implementation environment should be handled with a gentle approach so that information can be received and no misunderstandings occur.

Conclusion

Networks in governance are key in creating various innovations in solving public problems. This problem-solving concept involves various roles of stakeholders such as the government, the private sector, and the community. In handling stunting in West Java, the government makes efforts by coordinating with related agencies through coordination and deliberation before implementing programs and going directly to the community. The Regional Development Planning Agency, West Java Provincial Health Office, Genre Ambassadors, Stunting Reduction Acceleration Team, Private Sector, and Community are stakeholders that play a role in tackling the problem of stunting in West Java Province. The results of this study show that the

process of collaboration and networking of actors in the government has been running well. Efforts to build understanding and trust in the community are one of the main factors in the implementation of the programs that have been realized. The involvement of the community as an actor in delivering the vision supports the success of networking governance in handling stunting in West Java Province. It is hoped that this research will find new data on stunting rates in West Java, so that it can show the success of the concept of networking governance in handling stunting in West Java Province. This network of actors in handling stunting has been successfully built as evidenced by the decline in stunting rates in West Java.

References

- Bonso, H. & Santoso (2018). Effectiveness Network Governance in Making of Special Regional Regulations in Papua Province. *Journal of Governance and Public Policy*, 5.
- Creswell, J. W. (2018). Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches. In J. W. Creswell, *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches*. Los Angeles: Sage Publication.
- Furchan, A. (1992). *Pengantar Metoda Penelitian Kualitatif: Suatu Pendekatan Fenomenologis Terhadap Ilmu-Ilmu Sosial*. Surabaya: Usaha Nasional.
- Kapacuh, N & Hu, Q. 2020. *Network Governance: Concept, Theories dan Applications*. New York: Routledge
- Laporan Percepatan Penurunan Stunting Provinsi Jawa Barat (2023). Bandung: Pemerintah Provinsi Jawa Barat.
- Mediani, H. S. (2022). Factors affecting the knowledge and motivation of health cadres in stunting prevention among children in Indonesia. *Journal of Multidisciplinary Healthcare*, 1069-1082.
- Nasution, N. F. (2024). Government Collaboration in Stunting Prevention Programme in Medan City. *Formosa Journal of Multidisciplinary Research (FJMR)*, 23-34.
- Rahardian, R. (2024). Teori-teori Governansi dan Kebijakan Publik Kontemporer. In R. Rahardian, *Teori-teori Governansi dan Kebijakan Publik Kontemporer* (pp. 89-90). Jakarta: Penerbit BRIN.
- Salsabila, R. S. (2023). Collaborative Governance dalam Penanganan Stunting di Kelurahan Tanjung Mas Kota Serang. *Journal of Public Policy and Management Review*, 13 (1), 1-22.
- Sumanti, R. (2024). Collaborative Governance : Strategi Pencegahan dan Penurunan Prevalensi Stunting. *Jurnal Kebijakan Pembangunan* 19 (1), 13-26.

- Yudiatmaja, W. E. (2015). Innovation Policy and Government Network in Era Decentralization: Case Study Perda City Batam. *Prosiding SNaPP2017 Sosial, Ekonomi, dan Humaniora*, 612-631.
- Yuwanti, M. F. (2021). Faktor-faktor yang Mempengaruhi Stunting pada Balita di Kabupaten Grobogan. *E-Jurnal Cendikia Utama*, 74-84.