



POLICY NETWORK TO ACCELERATE STUNTING REDUCTION IN MAROS DISTRICT

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Abstract

The research aims to elaborate and analyze the policy network to accelerate the reduction of stunting at Maros Regency by assessing seven indicators, namely: the actors, network functions, structure, and institutionalization. The research used the qualitative method, and the data were collected using the observation, interview techniques, and documentation. The data were processed consisting of the data condensation, data presentation, and conclusion drawing. The research results indicate that: (1) the actors' roles in accelerating the stunting reduction have not been successful in assessing that there are still actors who have not succeeded in carrying out their roles in the field. (2) the function of the policy network is used as the instrument for coordinating each involved actor successfully in carrying out the collaboration but the community has not yet assessed the success of the function carried out by the actor, (3) the structure of the policy network is successful in the linkage patterns in accordance with Maros Regent's decree regarding the formation of the team to accelerate the stunting reduction at Maros Regency in 2022, (4) the actors' institutionalization in the rule was successful in accordance with Maros Regent Regulation Number 87 of 2021 regarding Village and Village Administration Roles in the integrated stunting prevention and reduction at Maros Regency.

Keywords: policy network, public policy, stunting

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INTRODUCTION

Stunting remains a critical public health concern that hampers the growth and development of millions of children worldwide. The irreversible physical and cognitive impairments caused by stunting pose significant challenges for individuals, families, and societies, perpetuating cycles of poverty and hindering overall socio-economic progress. In the context of the Maros District, where stunting prevalence has persistently posed a formidable obstacle to child well-being and human capital development, a comprehensive and coordinated approach is urgently required. Actors are interdependent and policies emerge from the interactions between them (Rhodes 2017). Analyzing the relationship between policy networks that can be identified with policy results so that a policy network theory is needed on the problem of accelerating stunting reduction in accordance with the policy in Presidential Regulation no. 72 of 2021 concerning accelerating the reduction of stunting.

Stunting is a condition of impaired growth and development that occurs in children as a result of chronic malnutrition, usually during the early

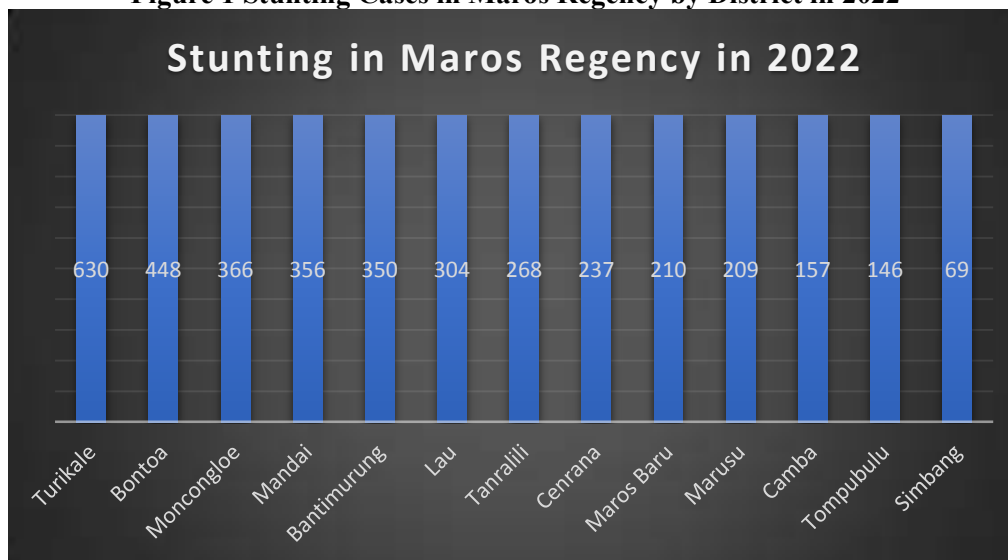
years of life. It is characterized by low height-for-age, and children who experience stunting typically fall below the average height of their age group. Stunting is considered an indicator of chronic undernutrition and is associated with deficiencies in essential nutrients, particularly protein, energy, and micronutrients, during critical periods of growth and development (Black, et al, 2013; Frongillo & Aguayo, 2017; Chawla, 2020). Stunting is a nutritional problem that occurs in infants in the first 1000 days of life. The risk of death in stunted children is almost 12 times higher than the risk of death in children with good nutrition. Children who recover from malnutrition may continue to experience developmental and growth problems throughout their lives (UNICEF, 2013). Stunting is the most common form of child malnutrition in the world and is experienced by 161 million children aged 0-5 years (Siswati, 2022).

Policy networks are considered to provide the possibility of continuous communication between different actors, networks consisting of formal organizations, various government agencies, local activities and international support groups, these groups will interact with one another in a

government program or policy (Mark 1995). A network between actors to build cooperation in accelerating the reduction of stunting so as to reduce stunting rates in Maros Regency based on the policy in Maros Regent Regulation Number 87 of 2021 concerning the Role of Villages and

Kelurahans in Preventing and Reducing Integrated Stunting in Maros Regency. The stunting rate in Maros Regency is in the second highest ranking position in South Sulawesi after Jeneponto Regency which ranks first.

Figure 1 Stunting Cases in Maros Regency by District in 2022

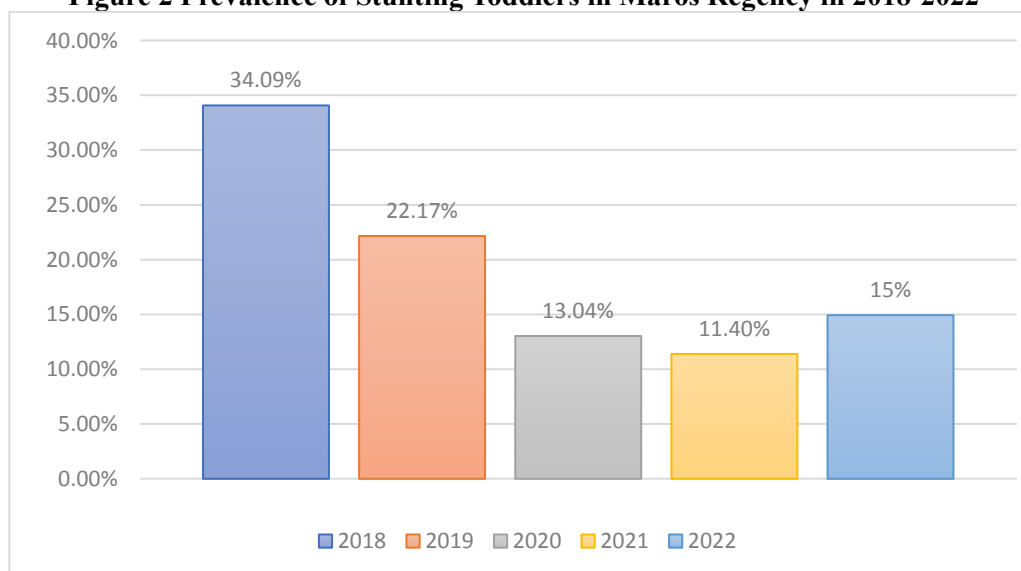


Source: Maros District Health Office e-PPGM data

The figure above shows that in 2022 the prevalence of stunting in Maros Regency by sub-district is highest in Turikale Sub-District, then Bontoa Sub-District, while the smallest case is in Simbang Sub-District. The stunting condition in Maros Regency in 2022 does not meet the World

Health Organization (WHO) standards where the maximum percentage standard for stunting for an area is 20% while the prevalence rate in 2022 is 30.1%. The following is the prevalence of stunting under five in Maros Regency in the last 5 (five) years.

Figure 2 Prevalence of Stunting Toddlers in Maros Regency in 2018-2022



Source: Maros District Health Office 2022

There has been an increase in numbers stunting in Maros Regency in 2022 compared to the previous two years. The statement was clarified by the Headpublic health Office Maros Muhammad Yunus, that currently the number of stunting cases

has reached 4,434 toddlers. While the previous year there were 3,378 cases. In 2022 the number of stunting will reach 4,434 or 14.94% of the 29,684 children under five examined. While in 2021 there were 3,378 cases or 11.40% of the

30,584 children under five examined, and in 2020, the number of stunting ranged from 3,812 or 13.04% of the 29,231 children under five examined, data is based on the 2022 Maros Regency RPJMD. The highest number of stunting cases is in Turikale District, due to the large number of targets and better community participation. According to data on the number of stunting cases in Turikale District there are 630 children under five, in Turikale District there are 7 (seven) Villages namely Adatongeng, Alliritengae, Boribellaya, Pettuadae, Raya, Taroad, and Turikale.

Based on field investigations by visiting the community, namely that it is still considered low in stunting socialization activities carried out in the form of counseling. From the secondary data reported by the District/City Health Service it was found that stunting is determined by problems such as, lack of knowledge of the mother, changes in patterns of family relations in raising children, loss of environmental attention to pregnant women, lack of community participation, and low access to health services.

In reducing stunting, the government builds a policy network by involving actors, namely the Office of Women's Empowerment, Child Protection, Population Control and Family Planning, Health Service, Regional Development Planning, Research and Development Agency (BAPPELITBANGDA), Village Community Empowerment Service (TPPS) at Kelurahan/Village level, the private sector and community involvement as targets. Sabatier (1993) examined a policy network and called it the Advocacy Coalition, namely a group of policy makers in the policy subsystem.

By involving actors in accelerating stunting reduction in Maros Regency, if it is judged based on some policy networks that they have not been effective with various kinds of obstacles, in the implementation of this research the policy network for accelerating stunting reduction is very important information to know. With problems in the program so that the acceleration of stunting reduction requires a network concept in solving these problem.

RESEARCH METHODS

In this study using descriptive research with a qualitative approach. Study in accelerating the reduction of stunting in Maros Regency, this was carried out by collecting related documents to obtain the required data and involving various sources of information such as observations, interviews, and documentation. This research was conducted in Maros Regency, South Sulawesi

Province, the agencies involved were the Office for Women's Empowerment, Child Protection, Population Control and Family Planning (DP3ADALDUKKB), Health Service, Development Planning, Research and Regional Development Agency (BAPPELITBANGDA), Village Community Empowerment Service, TP-PKK, Team for Accelerating Stunting Reduction at District Level, Team for Accelerating Stunting Reduction at Village level and the private sector involved in accelerating stunting reduction in Maros District.

To assess the success of this study, Waarden's (1992) policy network theory was used with indicators consisting of actors, network functions, structure, and institutionalization. By conducting in-depth interviews with actors who are involved in accelerating the reduction of stunting, it is carried out to gather information regarding programs that have been implemented by actors involved in stunting prevention in Maros Regency.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1. Actor

Actors are the number of participants involved by explaining the role of each actor in accelerating the reduction of stunting. There are 7 (seven) SKPD actors involved, supported by the private sector as well as stakeholders and the community as targets by carrying out their respective roles in accelerating the reduction of stunting in Maros Regency.

Based on the results of interviews with the actors involved, it was assessed that the role of the actors in accelerating the reduction of stunting, several actors had carried out their roles in accordance with the applicable regulations, but there were still actors who had not succeeded in carrying out their roles, judging by the results of interviews obtained in the field.

2. network function

In accelerating stunting reduction, the function of the network is as a communication tool for each actor involved in the implementation of stunting reduction acceleration. The function of the network in accelerating the reduction of stunting can be assessed how large the number of HR (Human Resources) is involved in forming relationships in the network to increase intensity between interested parties in implementing a policy.

The results of the interviews show that the function of the policy network for accelerating stunting reduction in Maros Regency is that each actor cooperates and exchanges information in

coordinating the success of program objectives, but the community as the target audience has not yet assessed the success of the program being implemented in helping to access information related to the network for accelerating stunting reduction in Maros Regency.

3. Structure

The structure of the policy network is an important component, the network structure will assess the pattern of relationships between actors in the policy network based on the structure itself. By identifying the policy network for implementing the acceleration of stunting reduction in Maros Regency, there is a structure with each actor involved.

Based on the results of the interviews, it can be assessed that the structural indicators for accelerating the reduction of stunting in Maros Regency are carried out based on the pattern of linkages according to the Decree of the Maros Regent regarding the formation of a team to accelerate stunting reduction in Maros Regency Number 473/KPTG/050.13/II/2022. With this decision it was formed with the aim of accelerating the reduction of stunting in Maros Regency.

4. institutionalization

Based on the rules that form the basis for institutionalization in the implementation of accelerated stunting reduction in Maros Regency with the aim of providing legal certainty that can be used as a reference for Kelurahan/Village in planning and implementing activities to prevent stunting handling. This regulation is intended to serve as a guideline for the prevention and treatment of stunting through integrated interventions, including interventions for specific nutrition and sensitive nutrition through integrated stunting convergence in Maros Regency.

The results of the research on institutionalization can be concluded that there has been success in implementing a network to accelerate stunting reduction in Maros Regency with Number 473/KPTG/050.13/II/2022 concerning the Formation of a Team to Accelerate Stunting Reduction in Maros Regency in 2022, and Maros Regent Regulation Number 87 of 2021 Regarding the Role of Villages and Sub-Districts in the Prevention and Reduction of Integrated Stunting in Maros Regency.

CONCLUSION

1. The role of actors in the policy network for accelerating stunting reduction in Maros Regency is that several actors have carried out

their roles according to the rules, but there are still actors who have not succeeded in carrying out their roles in the field, namely TPPS (Team for the Acceleration of Stunting Reduction) in Kelurahan/Villages. So that the actor indicators have not been successful.

2. The function of the network in the stunting reduction acceleration policy in Maros Regency is as a communication tool for coordinating each actor who is connected in every implementing action in the resource exchange process, the actors involved have carried out good cooperation, but the community has not yet assessed the success of the functions carried out by the actor.
3. The structure of the policy network in accelerating the reduction of stunting in Maros Regency, with the decision of the Maros Regent Number 473/KPTG/050.13/II/2022 concerning the formation of a team to accelerate stunting reduction in Maros Regency in 2022.
4. Institutionalization of the policy network for accelerating stunting reduction in Maros Regency is based on Maros Regent Regulation Number 473/KPTG/050.13/II/2022 concerning the formation of a team to accelerate stunting reduction in Maros Regency in 2022, and Maros Regent Regulation Number 87 of 2021 Regarding the Role of Villages and Kelurahan in Preventing and Reducing Integrated Stunting in Maros Regency.

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