

## Analysis of the Implementation of Convergence in Reducing Stunting in Meranti Islands Regency

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**Abstract:** Implementation of convergence in an integrated stunting prevention program is already a national policy specified in Presidential Decree Number 72 of 2021 concerning Accelerating the Reduction of Stunting. Meranti Regency as a Regency in Riau province which is the location of the focus of stunting has not implemented efforts to reduce stunting in accordance with the convergence action guidelines. The coverage of the stunting prevalence rate in Meranti Islands Regency in 2022 is 17.5%. The research objective was to obtain in-depth information about the implementation of the stunting reduction program through convergence action in Meranti Islands Regency in 2023. This type of research is qualitative with a case study approach. There were 9 informants consisting of several related stakeholders, namely the Regional Apparatus Organization (OPD) as the holder and implementer of the stunting program. The triangulation used is the triangulation of sources, methods and data. The results of the research show that support policies in an effort to reduce stunting cases refer to Presidential Regulation Number 72 of 2021 and Meranti District Regent Regulations, the quantity of human resources, facilities and infrastructure and funding is still lacking. Planning, convergence implementation, monitoring and evaluation of stunting reduction have been carried out in accordance with Presidential Regulation Number 72 of 2021 and there are still obstacles in planning and implementing activities. The implementation of stunting reduction convergence in Meranti Islands Regency was able to reduce the stunting rate in 2019-2022 from 25.10% to 17.5% or almost 2.5% annually. Bappeda and the head of the health office should work together to carry out ongoing advocacy to the local government and DPRD to obtain policy and financial support in efforts to prevent stunting in Meranti District

**Abstract:** Implementasi konvergensi dalam program pencegahan stunting secara terintegrasi sudah merupakan kebijakan nasional yang tertuang dalam Perpres Nomor 72 Tahun 2021 tentang Percepatan Penurunan Stunting. Kabupaten Kepulauan Meranti sebagai Kabupaten di provinsi Riau yang menjadi lokasi fokus stunting belum melaksanakan upaya penurunan stunting sesuai dengan panduan aksi konvergensi. Cakupan angka prevalensi stunting di Kabupaten Kepulauan Meranti Tahun 2022 sebesar 17,5%. Tujuan penelitian untuk mendapatkan informasi mendalam tentang implementasi program penurunan stunting melalui aksi konvergensi di Kabupaten Kepulauan Meranti Tahun 2023. Jenis penelitian ini adalah kualitatif dengan pendekatan secara study kasus (*case study*). Informan berjumlah 9 orang terdiri dari beberapa stakeholder terkait yaitu Organisasi Perangkat Daerah (OPD) sebagai pemegang dan pelaksana kebijakan (implementor) program stunting. Triangulasi yang digunakan adalah triangulasi sumber, metode dan data. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan kebijakan pendukung dalam upaya menurunkan kasus stunting mengacu pada Peraturan Presiden Nomor 72 Tahun 2021 dan Peraturan Bupati Kabupaten Meranti, kuantitas SDM, sarana dan prasarana dan pendanaan masih kurang. Perencanaan, implementasi konvergensi, pemantauan dan evaluasi penurunan stunting sudah dilakukan sesuai dengan Peraturan Presiden Nomor 72 Tahun 2021 dan masih terdapat kendala dalam kegiatan perencanaan dan implementasi. Implementasi konvergensi penurunan stunting di Kabupaten Kepulauan Meranti mampu menurunkan angka stunting pada 2019-2022 dari 25,10% menjadi 17,5% atau hampir 2,5% tiap tahunnya. Bappeda dan Kepala dinas kesehatan sebaiknya bekerja sama untuk melakukan advokasi secara berkelanjutan kepada pemerintah daerah dan DPRD untuk mendapatkan dukungan kebijakan dan dana dalam upaya pencegahan *stunting* di Kabupaten Meranti.



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## INTRODUCTION

Stunting is a condition of impaired growth and development of children under five years of age due to chronic malnutrition and recurrent infections, prioritized during the First 1000 Days of Life (HPK), namely from the womb until the child is 23 months old. Reducing the prevalence of stunting under five is one of the priority programs in health development listed in the main targets of the 2015 - 2019 Medium Term Development Plan (Ministry of Health of the Republic of Indonesia, 2018).

Experience in several countries which have succeeded in reducing stunting rates shows the highest national commitment to accelerate the reduction of stunting prevalence. In Peru and Brazil the President's leadership in prioritizing efforts to improve nutrition and access to health services can significantly reduce the prevalence of stunting. In Peru the prevalence of stunting fell from 28.5% to 14.4% in 8 years, while in Brazil, the prevalence of stunting was reduced by 30% in 30 years (National Team for the Acceleration of Poverty Reduction, 2019).

Based on research results (Sutarto et al., 2018) that the prevalence of stunting in Indonesia is higher than other countries in Southeast Asia, such as Myanmar (35%), Vietnam (23%), and Thailand (16%) and is ranked fifth in the world.

Based on the results of the Indonesian Nutrition Status Survey (SSGI), the national stunting prevalence rate in 2019 (27.7%), 2021 (24.4%), and 2022 (21.6%), these results show that Indonesia is able to reduce the stunting rate of children under five. (2007-2022) from 36.8% to 21.6% or almost 1% annually (SSGI, 2023).

In Riau Province, the prevalence of stunting under five is based on district/city, namely Indragiri Hilir (28.5%), Siak (22.0%), Rokan Hulu (22.0%), Kuantan Singingi (17.8%), Archipelago Meranti (17.5%), Pekanbaru (16.8%), Indragiri Hulu (16.7%), Rokan Hilir (14.7%), Kampar (14.5%), Dumai (12.8%), Pelalawan (11.2%), Bengkalis (8.4%). From data on the prevalence of stunted toddlers in Riau Province, it shows that Meranti Islands Regency is ranked fifth

above Riau Province. Prevalence of Stunting Toddlers in Meranti Islands Regency in 2019 (25.10%), 2021 (23.3%) and 2022 (17.5%). Meranti Islands Regency from 2019-2022 was able to reduce the stunting rate from 25.10% to 17.5% or almost 2.5% annually, and is expected to achieve the target of the National Medium Term Development Plan (RPJMN) in 2024 (14%). (Riau Health Office, 2023)

The purpose of this research is to obtain in-depth information about the implementation of the stunting reduction program through convergence action in Meranti Islands Regency in 2023.

## METHODS

This type of research is qualitative research using a case study research design, with a phenomenon approach that is carried out intensively, in detail and in depth regarding the thing being researched in the form of programs, events, activities and others to obtain in-depth knowledge/information. (Baxter & Jack, 2008). This research was conducted in Meranti Islands Regency with research time from March to May 2023. The selection of informants can be done in two ways, namely: Snowballing sample and Purposive sampling (Martha, 2020). Main informants are people who know technically and in detail about the research problem to be studied. Supporting informants are people who can provide additional information to complement the analysis. Key informants are informants who have comprehensive information about the problems raised by the researcher. The types of data in this research are primary data and secondary data. Primary data are data sources that directly provide data to data collectors or researchers originating from informants or informants through in-depth interviews, observation and document tracking with the help of checklist sheets. Secondary data is a data source that does not directly provide data to data collectors or researchers, for example through documents. Data collection can be obtained from the results of in-depth interviews, observation and document searches. The validity test used in qualitative research is

triangulation, namely source triangulation, method triangulation and data triangulation. Data analysis in this study was carried out qualitatively, data analysis was divided into 6 (six) stages, namely data transcription, data coding, analysis process, presenting data in matrix form, data analysis during data collection and analyzing data by Content Analysis.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Policy

The results of the analysis state that both the central government and the regional government, especially Meranti Islands Regency, have issued supporting policies such as Regent Regulations, SK TPPS in an effort to reduce stunting cases through convergence actions in Meranti Islands Regency referring to Presidential Regulation Number 72 of 2021. Such as informant statement as follows:

*"Refer to Presidential Decree 72 of 2021, the regional government in the context of reducing stunting has issued a Regent's Regulation and TPPS Decree."*

The results of this study are in line with research Shauma & Purbaningrum (2022), The government already has standards, namely the Tangerang Regent Regulation No. 16 of 2020 concerning the Acceleration of Integrated Stunting Prevention in accordance with the mandate of RI Presidential Regulation No. 42 of 2013 concerning the National Movement to Accelerate Nutrition Improvement which has now been replaced with Presidential Regulation of the Republic of Indonesia Number 72 of 2021 concerning Accelerating the Reduction of Stunting. If one looks at the regulation of the Regent of Tangerang Regency No.16 of 2020 concerning the acceleration of integrated stunting prevention, it is effective enough to be used as a basis for implementers in carrying out an integrated stunting prevention policy in Rajeg District, Tangerang Regency..

The results of this study are in line with research Fitrauni et al (2022) that there are regulations in the form of Sigi Regent Regulation Number 14 of 2020 concerning the Acceleration of Stunting Reduction in order to optimize the role of villages and communities in reducing stunting. The Sigi Regent's regulations, among other things, regulate village authority in implementing nutrition

interventions through the Village APBD, the role of Subdistricts and Villages, incentive support for cadres, publication and communication of behavior change.

### Human Resources (HR)

The results of the analysis state that the human resources responsible for the stunting reduction program through convergence actions at TPPS are Bappeda as the coordinator, OPD KB Secretariat, Health Office specific interventions and other related OPD sensitive interventions. The quantity of human resources for the convergence team available in Meranti Islands Regency based on the SK TPPS is sufficient, but in carrying out the activities not all have played a role according to their duties and functions, while the quality of human resources for the convergence team available is good because each related OPD has received training in accordance with their respective duties and functions. respectively. This is as stated in the informant's statement as follows:

*"The quantity of human resources for the convergence team is very minimal because the number of employees in each OPD is limited, so the constraints are difficult to gather at the same time, high workload and other tasks."*

Larasati (2018) explain human resources (HR) is a central factor in an organization, regardless of its form and purpose. Humans are a strategic factor in an institutional/organizational activity. HR capability is a competitive advantage of an organization. The existence of reliable strategic managers and human resources can contribute to generating added value for the company. added value is strategic HR that is part of the company's human capital

The results of this study are in line with research Sunaryo et al (2022) that resource The implementation of policies to accelerate stunting prevention and control in Bandung Regency still needs to be improved. Moreover, related to the Covid-19 pandemic conditions currently being faced, human resources or human resources are limited. The conditions of the Covid-19 pandemic have made many health workers tasked with dealing with stunting, then switch to dealing with Covid-19 as well.

## Completeness of Facilities and Infrastructure

The results of the analysis stated that the availability of anthropometric equipment, blood supplement tablets was sufficient from the Health Office but catin TTD which is a new program mandated by Presidential Decree 72 of 2021 is not yet available, HB checking tools are limited. Sanitation in coastal areas is not all ODF, clean water does not meet health requirements. This is as stated in the informant's statement as follows:

*“Anthropometry has been provided by the Ministry of Health through the health office, blood supplement tablets for young women are already available, only catin blood supplement tablets, a new program needs to be proposed as well as HB checks with limited HB sticks, clean water and sanitation facilities because it is very difficult for the islands to get clean water depending on rainwater, for sanitation in coastal areas is difficult”.*

The results of this study are in line with research Nefy et al., (2019) stated that there is still a lack of supporting facilities and infrastructure related to the 1000 HPK movement. Such as facilities and infrastructure for monitoring the growth of toddlers at Community Health Centers and Posyandu. This is because there is no funding allocation for purchasing monitoring equipment.

Research result Rahmaningtyas, (2020), sensitive family nutrition interventions in providing and ensuring access to clean water and sanitation have not been implemented well. All participants stated that not all families used sanitation facilities according to health requirements in the Sukorame Community Health Center Working Area, Kediri City. Not all families use sanitation facilities such as goose neck latrines/septic tanks/Waste Water Treatment Systems (SPAL).

## Funding

The results of the analysis state that the source of the stunting reduction program in Meranti Islands Regency comes from DAK which is sourced from APBN, APBD, BOKB

revenues in the Social Service and APBDes as well as CSR and community self-help, the health budget is not sufficient for implementing convergent action to reduce stunting. This is as stated in the informant's statement as follows:

*“Sources of funds are district APBD, BOKB, DAK, APBDes, third party CSR, village community self-help”.*

Research result Wididiati et al (2021), The budget allocation by the East Lombok Regency health service comes from the APBD for handling stunting and is used for implementation community nutrition improvement program, and other programs related to the sensitive nutrition of society. Meanwhile, the BOK Stunting funds themselves allocated to fund all stunting intervention coordination activities integrated. The stunting BOK funds are used for the implementation of 8 Integrated action to reduce stunting interventions. Budget allocation Sourced from the village budget, funds are used for various purposes needs in the village. The village government allocates 20% funds for stunting remain in accordance with established regulations.

Research result Sunaryo et al (2022) is known the refocusing of budgets in each each OPD to tackle Covid 19 make several acceleration activities prevention and control of stunting is necessary adjust the implementation method. However Social Service is still getting extra budget for PKH activities (Program Harapan Family), and the Basic Food Program formerly the Raskin Program. Addition This budget comes from the Ministry of Social Affairs, not from the Bandung Regency APBD.

## Planning

The results of the analysis stated that the implementation of the preparation of activity plans and work schedules for the stunting reduction program were coordinated by Bappeda and were running well. This is as stated in the informant's statement as follows:

*“The preparation of the program planning is good, led by Bappeda as the regional planning agency, the programs in the OPD are tagged and combined for maximum benefit.”.*

The results of this study are in line with Fitrauni et al (2022), where the regional

government of Sigi Regency prepares an activity plan based on the matrix of the results of the situation analysis in Action 1. This program is based on the current year and program year. Put the prepared activity plan into detailed activities, then focus on the 25 specific locations that have been identified. Since then, the Sigi Regency Government has supervised the activities carried out that year. In addition, the Regional Government of Sigi ensures that the activity plan has been included in the planning and budgeting documents through APBD and APBN funding sources.

### **Convergence Implementation**

The results of the analysis state that the needs needed for the implementation of a converged stunting reduction program are budget, human resources, adequate infrastructure, policies and support from across sectors. This is as stated in the informant's statement as follows:

*"Budget, quality human resources, adequate infrastructure and support from policies and cross-sectors."*

The findings of this study are in line with Hermawati & Writers, (2020) that the Integrated Stunting Prevention Program in North Lombok Regency is not functioning optimally because a lot of technology has emerged during the implementation of each OPD Limit activity program in the field. Poor coordination between each OPD due to weak human resources is the most common thing that is done so that it has an impact on staff not being optimal in carrying out their functional duties in a very busy program routine without expert staff to help manage the existing program.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

The results of the analysis stated that the monitoring and evaluation of the stunting reduction program through convergence actions in Meranti Islands Regency through the Bangda Action, e PPGBM, the Elsimil application from the district to the village level and PMD monitoring. Obstacles in carrying out monitoring and evaluation, namely delays in data from OPD, the e PPGBM application often errors, constraints on the availability of human resources and the division of tasks is

quite difficult for OPD because there are quite a lot of convergence actions. This is as stated in the informant's statement as follows:

*"Monitoring and evaluation are in accordance with the main tasks and functions of each OPD, such as the health service regarding stunting evaluation, data collection and percentage of stunting from e PPGBM. Data constraints are often late from each OPD and when inputting data errors often occur in the application"* (Supporting informant 1, 32 years old)

The results of this research are in line with the research Syafrina, M., Masrul, M., & Firdawati, (2019) which stated that the monitoring and evaluation carried out by the Padang Pariaman District Health Office was monitoring using the e PPGBM application. Puskesmas nutrition program management officers report in the form of an application if it is found from home visits or meetings at posyandu that toddlers are experiencing nutritional problems, then the data is directly input into the application, this reporting activity is carried out every day.

The results of this research are in line with the research Muthia (2019) which explains that supervision for stunting prevention interventions is carried out in stages starting from the center to the Province, Province to District, District to Community Health Center or directly from District to Nagari which is carried out routinely. Supervision is carried out once a month by the health service through the public health sector through the Nutrition and Family Health Section (Kesga).

### **OUTPUT**

The results of the analysis stated that the results of the implementation of the stunting reduction program through convergence actions were quite good, marked by the results of stunting reduction in 2022 which were quite good, experiencing a decrease of 5% from 23.3% in 2021 to 17.5%. This is as stated in the informant's statement as follows:

*"The results of reducing stunting in 2022 are good enough to experience a decrease of 5% from 23.3% to*

*17.5% but there is still a task in 2024 to reach the 14% target.*

The results of this study are in line with research Nefy et al (2019) namely a number of specific and sensitive nutrition programs have been implemented, but there are still indicators that have not reached the target. This achievement is still lower than the target set at 69.7%. The results of this study are also in line with research Muthia (2019) stated that the Padang Pariaman Regional Government's commitment to the stunting problem was quite good, but still needed improvement for indicators that were not achieved, such as budget indicators, vitamin A coverage, clean water access coverage, coverage of pregnant women's visits and written regulations/laws..

The results of this study are in line with research Yudiana (2022) namely, the Riau Islands Provincial Government has budgeted for an accelerated reduction program stunting inherent in all OPD. Output Specific intervention performance indicators in categories below the national average is pBalancing of Toddlers in Posyandu (56.7%) and administration of Vitamin A (60.4%). Meanwhile, sensitive interventions that have been implemented are lower than the average national is National Health Insurance Program (80.2%), access on basic sanitation (78.0%) and food security index (62.7%).

## **CONCLUSION**

The Meranti Islands Regency's efforts to reduce stunting cases refer to Presidential Regulation Number 72 of 2021, the Meranti Islands Regency Regional Regulation, the formation of an Action Team (SK) for the Acceleration of Stunting Reduction (TPPS), a Family Assistance Team Decree (TPK), and a SK reviewing cases of developmental delays . The Meranti Islands Regency SK TPPS smelting team has adequate human resources, but not all of them function according to their responsibilities and functions in carrying out activities and the quality of their human resources is also poor. The existing convergence team is good because each related DPO is trained individually according to their respective responsibilities and functions. Meranti Islands Regency 2023 Convergence of Implementation Reduction of imperfection of stunting facilities and

infrastructure, sanitation of coastal areas not yet ODF, clean water does not meet health requirements. The main funding sources for the Stunting Reduction Program in Meranti Islands Regency come from DAK, the private sector, and NGOs, and the health budget is insufficient to carry out Convergent Stunting Actions. The implementation of the plan to reduce stunting integration in Meranti Islands Regency has been carried out in accordance with Presidential Regulation Number 72 of 2021, but there are still obstacles in these planning activities, such as the number of human resources developed. by each OPD and the time limit for convergence actions. Meranti Islands Regency has implemented integration to reduce stunting in accordance with Presidential Regulation Number 72 of 2021, and the main problems in implementing integration are budget constraints, staff transfers or rotations, limited facilities and infrastructure per OPD. Monitoring and evaluation of the integration implementation of stunting reduction in Meranti Islands Regency has been carried out in accordance with Presidential Regulation Number 72 of 2021. Even so, there are obstacles in the implementation of monitoring and evaluation, such as delays in OPD data, errors often occur in the implementation of ePPGBM, lack of qualified human resources available, and the division of tasks which is quite difficult for OPD. Implementation of integrated efforts to reduce stunting in Meranti Islands Regency will reduce the stunting rate from 25.10% to 17.5% between 2019 and 2022 or almost 2.5% per year. Even so, there are obstacles in implementing inclusive activities to reduce stunting so that the basic service coverage indicators still have not reached the 2022 RPJMN target. Monitoring and evaluation of the integration implementation of stunting reduction in Meranti Islands Regency has been carried out in accordance with Presidential Regulation Number 72 of 2021. Even so, there are obstacles in the implementation of monitoring and evaluation, such as delays in OPD data, errors often occur in the implementation of ePPGBM, lack of qualified human resources available, and the division of tasks is quite difficult for OPD. Implementation of integrated efforts to reduce stunting in Meranti Islands Regency will reduce the stunting rate from 25.10% to

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