



## Strengthening Collaboration Instruments in Stunting Prevention as Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals in Malang Regency East Java

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### Abstract

*Sustainable Development Goals prepared by the United Nations in order to improve the welfare of people throughout the world. Of the seventeen priority programs, one of them is related to anti-poverty, anti-hunger targets and the availability of healthy and adequate sanitation. These three programs are often identified with the problem of stunting. In 2022, there will be at least 16 regencies/cities in East Java Province that will be priority areas for working on stunting and one of them is Malang Regency. Therefore, this community service aims to contribute to efforts to deal with stunting through strengthening collaboration between actors. This service partner is the Population Control and Family Planning Service the leading sector for handling stunting in Malang Regency. This community service method consists of four stages, starting from observation and documentation, followed by FGD and workshop activities, monitoring and evaluation and termination. The result of this community service is to contribute to strengthening collaboration instruments for stunting prevention in Malang Regency through the formation of cross-sectoral teams to empowering local communities.*

**Keywords:** Collaboration, SDGs, stakeholders, stunting

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## INTRODUCTION

Sustainable Development Goals or SDGs are prepared by the United Nations (UN) in order to improve the welfare of people throughout the world. In general, this program aims to solve social and economic problems in countries that need assistance. The SDGs aim to maintain a sustainable increase in the economic welfare of society and maintain the sustainability of society's social life (Sri Handayani et al., 2023). Apart from that, this program aims to maintain the quality of the environment carry out inclusive development, and implement governance that can maintain the improvement in the quality of life from one generation to the next. The SDGs goals are as shown in the figure.



**Figure 1. 17 SDGs Agenda (Source: <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>)**

Of the seventeen priority programs, one of them is related to anti-poverty, anti-hunger targets and the availability of healthy and adequate sanitation. These three programs are then often identified with the problem of stunting, so they have become a global agenda (Saputri & Tumangger, 2019). Stunting itself is a condition of failure to thrive in children caused by prolonged lack of nutrition, especially in the first thousand days of life, namely from pregnancy to the first two years of life (Syafira et al., 2023; Yuliani et al., 2023). This condition is characterized by significantly stunted body growth, especially in terms of height (Selviana et al., 2023). The impact on children can last a lifetime and affect their physical and cognitive development

Furthermore, based on data from the Malang District Health Service in 2018, there were at least 30,323 stunted children, who were divided into two groups, namely very short and short based on classification using height measurement criteria (Maulana et al., 2023). Data collected by the East Java Provincial Health Service in February 2020 shows that the prevalence of stunting in East Java is 13.6 percent or the equivalent of 380,000 children under five (Agustino & Widodo, 2022). In the same year, in Malang Regency, it was recorded that the prevalence of stunting was 14.1 percent or around 26,700 toddlers out of all 189,600 toddlers in Malang Regency (Arif, 2020). In that year there were at least 16 regencies/cities in East Java Province which were priority areas for working on stunting and one of them was Malang Regency.

Referring to Decree Number 050/8102/KEP/35.07.202/2020 concerning the determination of Priority Villages for the Acceleration of Stunting Prevention in Malang Regency in 2021 which was signed by the Head of the Malang Regency Regional Planning and Development Agency (Badan Perencanaan Pembangunan Daerah/Bappeda), there are at least 32 villages in 16 sub-districts which are priority areas. Meanwhile, in 2022, according to data submitted by Bakorwil Malang, 4 sub-districts are priority targets for stunting management, namely Sumberpucung Sub-district with a stunting prevalence of 15 percent, Ngajum Sub-district with a prevalence of 14 percent, Wonosari Sub-district with a prevalence of 6.8 percent.

percent, as well as Kromengan District with a prevalence of 3.1 percent (Agustino & Widodo, 2022).

The partner in this service activity is the Malang Regency Population Control and Family Planning Service (Dinas Pengendalian Penduduk dan Keluarga Berencana/DPPKB), which is the leading sector in preventing stunting. As a leading sector, DPPKB partners in handling stunting with various parties such as the PKK driving team, Dharma Wanita, colleges and universities, TNI, community organizations, companies and banks, and others.

The problems faced by the DPPKB as a service partner are, first, they have not identified the main duties and functions of each party involved in the stunting prevention program in Malang Regency. Identification of these main tasks and functions is necessary to prevent repetition of activities with the same substance and objectives. Second, lack of activities to strengthen networks and synergy between stakeholders in the stunting prevention program in Malang Regency. Third, lack of awareness of all Regional Apparatus Organizations and related stakeholders to establish networks and synergy in efforts to prevent stunting in Malang Regency. This means that what has happened so far is that because the issue of stunting is one of the SDGs priority programs, many government and private institutions or organizations have put stunting prevention programs on the agenda with various methods, methods and budget support, but they still operate individually and sporadically. Thus, the final results achieved cannot be optimal and effective. Fifth, there are no facilities, media or evaluation instruments to measure the results of collaborative stunting prevention activities that have been carried out.

Paying attention to the description related to the priority problems of the service partners above, this service aims to help carry out mapping related to the main tasks and functions (Tupoksi) of the DPPKB as the leading sector in preventing stunting cases with all stakeholders in Malang Regency. Apart from that, to carry out literacy related to the urgency of building social networks in preventing and handling stunting cases in Malang Regency and to formulate evaluative methods to measure the level of success of collaborative program achievements in preventing stunting in Malang Regency.

## METHOD IMPLEMENTATION

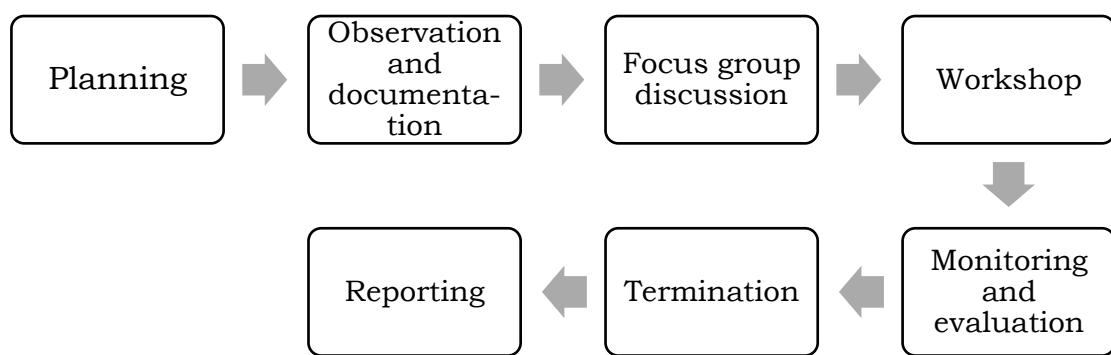
The method for implementing this service activity is carried out through observation and documentation, focus group discussions (FGD) and workshops, monitoring and evaluation, and termination. Each method and its activities are presented in the Table 1.

**Table 1.** Methods of Implementing Community Service

<b>Observation and Documentation</b>	<b>FGD and Workshops</b>	<b>Monitoring and Evaluation (Monev)</b>	<b>Termination</b>
Carried out to identify various	FGD and Workshop activities are carried	Monitoring and	This activity is the end of a

<b>Observation and Documentation</b>	<b>FGD and Workshops</b>	<b>Monitoring and Evaluation (Monev)</b>	<b>Termination</b>
<p>DPPKB, OPD, and stakeholder programs in preventing stunting cases:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Find out the progress of the stunting prevention program that has been carried out in Malang Regency.</li> <li>Know the Main Duties and Functions (Tupoksi) of DPPKB, OPD and stakeholders involved in preventing stunting.</li> <li>Identify the strengths and weaknesses in various stunting prevention programs that have been implemented by each party</li> </ol>	<p>out by paying attention to the following matters:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FGD activities were carried out as a means to find out in more detail regarding program progress, main tasks and functions and various problems faced by each contributing party;</li> <li>The results of the FGD will be a reference for implementing workshops related to strengthening networks and synergy between institutions/organizations in preventing stunting in Malang Regency.</li> </ol>	<p>evaluation (monev) activities are carried out periodically (every month for one meter) in order to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seeing the level of success of the network strengthening and synergy program in preventing stunting in Malang Regency;</li> <li>Providing solutions to the possibility of various problems arising in the process of networking and synergizing in programs to prevent stunting cases.</li> </ol>	<p>series of services carried out by the team and partners. Various suggestions and recommendations will be of concern for the sustainability of activities in the following period.</p>

The stages of implementing this service activity as explained in Table 1 above can be described in the form of the following scheme,



**Scheme 1.** Stages of the Community Service Program  
here

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

On November 1, 2023, located in Kepanjen District, the service team held a meeting with cross-agency stakeholders related to handling the stunting problem in Malang Regency. Starting from those who work as doctors, village midwives (from several villages with high stunting rates in Malang Regency), Village Family Planning Assistant Officers, Stunting Reduction Acceleration Team, and Family Planning Extension Association. Through this meeting, the service team succeeded in building stronger, more effective, efficient, and well-coordinated collaboration instruments between stakeholders. The formation of cross-sectoral teams and continuous dialogue allows for a more effective exchange of information and resources.



**Figure 2.** Implementation of Community Service Activities

### Identification of Stunting Problems in Malang Regency

Through surveys and in-depth studies, identification of the stunting problem in Malang Regency focuses on the main determinants, such as unbalanced eating patterns, limited access to health services, lack of public understanding regarding the dangers of stunting for children in the future, and lack of understanding about stunting prevention practices. The lack of knowledge from prospective brides regarding the importance of providing

nutritious food intake in the first 1000 days for fetuses and toddlers (Asy-Syifa et al., 2023). The findings are that stunting is not always caused by ignorance or economic factors because there are cases where stunting is also experienced by families with good economic conditions and educational levels. Even from the results of the meeting, it was also found that educating parents with higher education (Bachelor's degrees) was much more difficult than educating people with lower education levels. However, economic factors and the level of parental awareness are still the dominant factors in stunting cases in Malang Regency. Apart from that, the regional government also continues to strive for innovative stunting prevention assistance, so that it is more targeted.

### **Strengthening Collaboration Instruments between Cross-Sector Actors**

As a result of the community service program, collaboration instruments between stakeholders have been strengthened. Regular meetings, joint workshops, and dialogue forums have proven to be effective vehicles for building trust and cooperation between governments, health institutions, and non-governmental organizations. These steps have created a solid foundation to support the implementation of stunting prevention programs. Strengthening collaboration instruments in the stunting prevention program in South Malang Regency presents various innovations and improvements in coordination mechanisms between related actors.

First, the formation of a cross-sectoral team consisting of representatives from local government, health institutions, academics and non-governmental organizations is a crucial step. This team is responsible for aligning policies, resources and work plans to achieve common goals in stunting prevention. Ikatan Penyuluh Keluarga Berencana (IPKB) itself has a four-step program to prevent stunting, including CaTin assistance for three months before marriage by the family assistance team (Tim Pendampingan Keluarga/TPK). There are around 2000 teams, each team consisting of 3 officers from the National Population and Family Planning Agency (Badan Kependudukan dan Keluarga Berencana Nasional/BKKBN), Health Cadres, and Family Planning Cadres. The team was deployed in every RW throughout Malang Regency. The tasks carried out by the BKKBN team start from measuring the weight of the prospective bride and groom, height, and others related to CaTin's readiness and suitability to have children in the future. CaTin will continue to be equipped until he enters the category of being fit to become a parent.

Second, for pregnant women, IPKB continues to provide regular education to check their wombs, to know the development and condition of the fetus. Third, IPKB also continues to assist mothers who have just given birth (postpartum) to facilitate breast milk intake. Finally, routine checks on the baby's development, both in terms of weight, height, and health condition of the baby.

From the initial meeting of the service team, there are plans to continue holding regular coordination meetings and open dialogue forums to create communication space across stakeholders, from academics, stakeholders, to field officers, to create active collaboration and exchange

information openly. It does not rule out the possibility of involving various other actors, such as large companies (for CSR programs), students in community service programs or real work courses, as well as local entrepreneurs to support various village or district government programs in empowering local business products in packaged nutritious food.

Furthermore, capacity-strengthening steps were taken through joint training and workshops. The main focus is building a shared understanding of stunting, both from a medical and social perspective. In this way, a common basis of understanding is created between all related parties, facilitating the decision-making process and program implementation. As found by the service team, stunting is not always caused by economic problems, but also the level of awareness of parents about the importance of children consuming nutritious food, especially in the first 1000 days. The case that was found was that, even though parents have high education and a stable economy, it is not a guarantee that their children will not experience stunting problems. So the importance of the role and attention of parents to children, especially in terms of the food consumed every day by children. However, there is a challenge that educating parents with higher education is much more difficult than educating parents who have lower levels of education (Sahira & Assariah, 2023). So an effective communication strategy is important for teams in the field.

### **Long-Term Impact of Handling Stunting in Malang Regency**

These collaborative steps are expected to have a long-term impact in reducing stunting rates in Malang Regency. By increasing public access and understanding regarding the fulfillment of good nutritional intake, it is hoped that there will be changes in eating patterns and child care (Marlenywati et al., 2023). Strengthening collaboration instruments will also make it easier to implement child health policies and programs in the future. Periodically, local governments carry out engineering and technical innovations so that aid to handle stunting from the state is more targeted. This can be seen from the reduction in the number of stunting in several villages in South Malang. For example, in Ngebruk Village in February there were 576 or 11.1 percent, then it fell to 553 or 7.4 percent in August 2023. Village midwives in Kromengan District have a program called Canting Termodis (Prevent Stunting Doctors from Lowering to Village), where the main target of the program is monitoring children's weight through the KIA book. In Codo Village, Wajak District, there is a program called ANTING PAGI (Overcoming Stunting with Nutritional Intake), which is a program that provides regular food to children who are stunted, with a budget of 10 thousand rupiah for 90 days (three months). The food is provided directly to the target, by the health team.

### **Challenges and Recommendations in Handling Stunting in Malang Regency**

Even though significant progress has been achieved, this program is faced with several challenges, such as limited resources and suboptimal coordination. Therefore, ongoing commitment is needed from all relevant

parties, including local governments, to ensure program sustainability. It is important that the literacy process or stunting prevention education can be integrated into the educational curriculum so that it can be maximized. In addition, increasing cross-sectoral cooperation to support this collaborative effort on an ongoing basis is a necessity. Thus, these results and discussion detail the positive achievements of the stunting prevention program through strengthening collaboration instruments in Malang Regency, as well as providing views on sustainable steps to overcome stunting problems in the future.



**Figure 3.** Publication of Community Service in Radar Malang

## CONCLUSION

With a collaborative spirit, this community service program makes a significant contribution in strengthening collaboration instruments for stunting prevention in Malang Regency. The concrete steps taken, ranging from forming cross-sectoral teams to empowering local communities, have had measurable and sustainable positive impacts. Strengthening collaboration instruments is not just a technical step, but creates a climate of cooperation that is rooted in the culture of society and local government, making it a strong foundation in the joint struggle to achieve SDGs.

## RECOMMENDATION

The importance of this program lies not only in concrete efforts to reduce stunting rates but also in the joint learning and collaborative paradigm changes that are formed. As a commitment to the future of the next generation, these steps bring hope for sustainable positive change in

efforts to prevent stunting and develop community welfare in Malang Regency.

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