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# Paper 7

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## The important role of multi-sector partnership in stunting management in east java: a literature review



Dini Setiarsih<sup>1\*</sup>, Sa'bania Hari Raharjeng<sup>1</sup>, Rizki Nurmalya Kardina<sup>1</sup>, Paramita Viantri<sup>1</sup>, Fildzah<sup>1</sup>, Pratiwi Hariyani Putri<sup>1</sup>, Achmad Syafuiddin<sup>1</sup>, Rizki Amalia<sup>2</sup>, Karina Widowati<sup>3</sup>

### ABSTRACT

In order to integrate cross-sectoral activities in stunting prevention, the East Java provincial government developed a Regional Action Plan for Food and Nutrition (RAPFN). The integration of multi-sectoral activities is predicted to be leveraged in stunting prevention. This study aims to obtain an overview of the important role of multi-sectoral partnerships in stunting prevention in East Java. This study is a literature review with the stages of problem formulation, literature search, data extraction and data analysis and interpretation. The results of the search and study show that the East Java Provincial Government partnerships are carried out with non-governmental institutions, including universities, civil society organizations, companies, and the community itself. Partner universities include Universitas Nahdlatul Ulama Surabaya, Universitas Airlangga, and Universitas Jember. Partners from civil society organizations include various non-profit organizations coordinated in one program such as Micronutrient Supplementation for Reducing Mortality and Morbidity (MSRMM), initiated by Nutrition International and organizations with their programs. Partners from private companies are also under the direction of the government and among them is a program coordinated by PT Indofood Sukses Makmur Tbk. With the diverse backgrounds of partners, the programs that are run can vary but remain integrated with the direction of the government. The government's partnership with non-government institutions is expected to be a leverage to accelerate stunting reduction.

**Keywords:** partnership, stunting, program, multi-sector, non-government institution.

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### INTRODUCTION

The food and nutrition development program is a strategic investment because it is important to realize the quality and competitive human resources. Development of food and nutrition, especially in the first 1000 days of life, from the fetus to the child two years old, is a golden opportunity for optimal human growth and development. However, children's growth and development disorders at this golden age are still high. Furthermore, stunting is a nutritional problem in the spotlight due to its high prevalence in the world and in Indonesia.<sup>1</sup>

Stunting is a condition in which children have a height less than their age. This condition is measured by height over minus two standard deviations of the WHO child growth standard median. Toddler stunting includes chronic

nutritional problems caused by many factors, such as socioeconomic conditions, maternal nutrition during pregnancy, infant morbidity, and lack of nutritional intake in infants.<sup>2,3</sup> Therefore, stunting the handling of cross-cutting issues needs to consider its partnership across sectors.

In order to integrate cross-sectoral activities in stunting prevention, the East Java provincial government developed a Regional Action Plan for Food and Nutrition (RAPFN). RAPFN is a guideline in food and nutrition development efforts to support the implementation of Regional Development from 2020 to 2024 in the form of policy directions, strategies, programs and activities.<sup>4,5</sup> RAPFN is an important part of regional development that relies on the quality of healthy, productive human resources. A multi-sectoral approach through program coordination and activity plans is expected to be carried out effectively to achieve the objectives of food

and nutrition development. Integrating multi-sectoral activities is predicted to leverage stunting prevention.<sup>6-8</sup>

Preparing the 2020-2024 RAPFN for East Java Province is a guide not only for government institutions but also for non-governmental organizations, community institutions and other actors to participate and increase their contribution in efforts to achieve food security and improve nutrition in East Java Province. Cooperation between these institutions will certainly provide more optimal output because these institutions can complement each other. This study aims to obtain an overview of the important role of multi-sectoral partnerships in stunting prevention in East Java.

### METHOD

This study is a literature review. A literature review is a systematic, explicit, and reproducible method for identifying,

evaluating, and synthesizing research works and the thoughts of researchers and practitioners. The literature review contains a description of the theory, findings and other research materials obtained from reference materials to be used as the basis for research activities. The study was structured through several stages, namely (1) problem formulation, (2) literature search, (3) data extraction and (4) data analysis and interpretation.<sup>9</sup> The literature used in this study is in the form of scientific papers, previous studies, theories, documentation and other literature as study references.

## STUNTING IN INDONESIA AND EAST JAVA IN FIGURES

According to the data from the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Indonesia, the prevalence of stunting under five in Indonesia in 2007-2013 tends to be static. However, in 2018 there was a decrease in the prevalence of very short toddlers, although there was a slight increase in the prevalence of short toddlers (Figure 1).

Based on the Electronic Community-Based Nutrition Recording and Reporting, the East Java Health Office said that in July 2019, the prevalence of stunting under five in East Java was 36.81%. The three areas with the highest prevalence are Malang City (51.7%), Probolinggo Regency (55.7%), and Pasuruan Regency (47.6%). Based on the Basic Health Research in 2018, the prevalence of stunting for toddlers aged 0 to 59 months in East Java reached 32.81%. This figure is higher than the national stunting prevalence of 30.80%.

Stunting gets special attention its prevention because the impact is short-term and long-term.<sup>3</sup> Increased incidence of morbidity and mortality, impaired cognitive, motor and verbal development, and increased health costs are short-term impacts of stunting.<sup>10-12</sup> The long-term impacts of stunting include:

1. suboptimal posture as an adult (shorter than usual),
2. increased risk of obesity and other diseases,
3. the decline in reproductive health,
4. learning capacity and less than optimal performance during school years, and

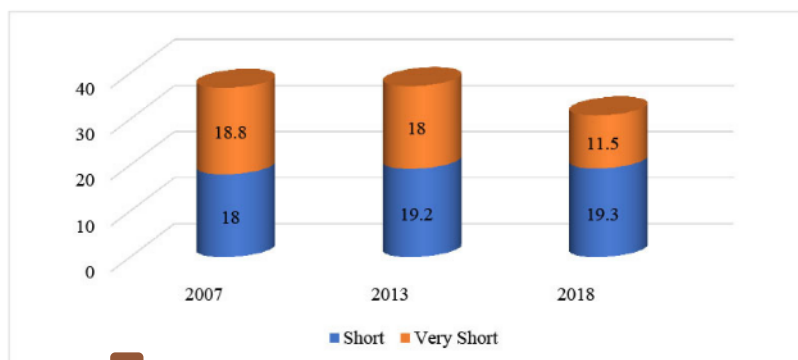


Figure 1. Prevalence of Stunting Toddlers in Indonesia in 2007-2018.<sup>2</sup>

5. productivity and work capacity that is not optimal.<sup>4,13</sup>

Stunting is one of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) targets, which is included in the second sustainable development goal: eliminating hunger and all forms of malnutrition by 2030 and achieving food security. The target is to reduce the stunting rate to 40% by 2025.<sup>2,3,5</sup> Therefore, prevention efforts are urgent, and considering the many determinant factors, cross-sectoral cooperation is very much needed.

## NON-GOVERNMENTAL SECTOR STUNTING PREVENTION PROGRAM

RAPFN focuses on the action plans of institutions under the provincial government. However, in addition to the government sector, which is included in the East Java Province RAPFN Implementation team, non-government sectors, such as the business world, non-governmental organizations, universities, professional organizations, development partners, mass media and various other civil society groups are said to be involved. In implementing food and nutrition action plans by statutory regulations. Various programs and activities have been implemented by various institutions, especially in East Java Province.

### College

1. Universitas Nahdlatul Ulama Surabaya (UNUSA) – UNICEF  
In 2021 UNUSA will participate as a partner in the UNICEF program, supporting local governments in implementing the Maternal, Child and

Adolescent Nutrition Program in East Java. One of the program's focuses is the acceleration of integrated stunting prevention. Some of the activities that have been carried out are:

- a. Members of the Regency or City performance appraisal team in implementing the convergence action to accelerate integrated stunting prevention in 20 focus locations in East Java Province. This activity aims to measure and ensure accountability for the performance level of district or city governments in implementing convergence actions. In addition, this program is a form of appreciation for the performance of district or city governments in implementing integrated stunting prevention and reduction convergence actions.
  - b. Team members in a remote training pilot for Infant and Child Feeding (ICF) in East Java Province. This activity aims to trial the Learning Management System (LMS)-based distance learning counseling training module for ICF to increase the capacity and coverage of trained health workers. In this activity, the team from UNUSA became the tutor for the participants from the district or city representatives after previously receiving training from the central tutor.
2. Universitas Airlangga  
Universitas Airlangga has signed a Memorandum of Understanding Number: 18/UN 3/HK07.00/2020 regarding the Higher Education Assistance Agreement to district or

**Table 1. Government Partnerships with Private Companies in Combating Stunting in East Java.**

Company	Program
PT Mayora Indah Tbk	Provision of Supplementary Food (PST) to pregnant women and children under two.
Danone Indonesia	Improving the capacity of integrated healthcare center cadres and health workers through training in handling stunting cases in Magetan, Blitar, and Tulungagung Regencies, while interventions to increase access to clean water and proper sanitation for underprivileged communities were carried out in Pasuruan Regency.

city governments. The agreement is committed to accelerating stunting prevention in East Java Province, including Bondowoso Regency, Nganjuk Regency, Lamongan Regency, Kediri Regency, Bangkalan Regency, Sampang Regency, Sumenep Regency, Pamekasan Regency.

University assistance to district or city governments is directed at assisting district and city governments in carrying out 5 (five) commitments to accelerate stunting prevention, including:

- a. Carry out regional meetings to accelerate stunting prevention together with all regional apparatus organizations, sub-district heads, village heads and other related parties.
  - b. Carry out the convergence or integration of programs and activities related to the acceleration of stunting prevention in the district concerned.
  - c. Collect and publish stunting data and acceleration programs carried out regularly, and use the data for program improvement.
  - d. Develop policies for behavior change campaigns and interpersonal communication to accelerate stunting prevention.
  - e. Increasing the role of the village in carrying out the convergence of accelerating stunting prevention in the village.
3. Universitas Jember

Another portrait of higher education involvement is the Universitas Jember (UNEJ) which has carried out community service, namely the stunting thematic Real Work Lecture (RWL). Prof. DR. Yuli Witono, Head of the Institute for Research and Community Service (LP2M), UNEJ, explained that the thematic RWL on stunting aims to build a synergy between the

university and local government commitments. This program also aims to integrate stunting reduction activities at the village level and encourage villages to create a health database and prevention based on integrated data. UNEJ has carried out this program by sending students to villages since 2018.<sup>5,14</sup>

**Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)**

Non-profit organizations have great potential to help tackle stunting. An international non-profit organization, Nutrition International takes on the role of a government partner in tackling stunting. The program implemented is Micronutrient Supplementation for Reducing Mortality and Morbidity (MSRMM). The mentoring system by Nutrition International<sup>15</sup> has been carried out since 2016 in the provinces of East Java and East Nusa Tenggara. The MSRMM program aims to unify understanding of nutrition-related matters, assisting in supply chain planning and technical assistance at Community Health Center and Integrated Healthcare Center at the district and provincial levels.<sup>7</sup>

Together with other community organizations such as Nasyiatul Aisyiyah Muhammadiyah, Fatayat Nahdlatul Ulama, Perdhaki, Pelkesi, PHDI, Walubi, Matakin, Helen Keller International, CISDI and many others, Nutrition International conducts several stunting prevention activities. These activities include:

1. Carry out nutrition and health training, early initiation of breast feeding, exclusive breastfeeding, weaning food, and create a conducive environment to support infant and toddler feeding and food security.
2. Provision of clean water and sanitation facilities.
3. Provision of vitamin A supplementation, blood-added tablets, and food fortification.

4. Training on the first 1000 days of life for religious leaders.
5. Nutrition and health education.

The role of other non-profit organizations can be studied from a study conducted to describe the Healthy Children program by the NGO Prakarsa in Jember. The intervention carried out in the implementation of the NGO program includes several stages. The first stage of preparation includes the distribution of officers, preparation of participants or community and field administration. The second stage is assessment, namely determining the problem as the basis for determining intervention. The third stage is planning alternative programs involving the community to determine solutions to problems. The fourth stage is the formulation of the action plan, namely the preparation of the program.

The next stage is program implementation. The types of activities carried out during the program include:

1. Education to parents as an effort to change the mindset of the village community to be more sensitive to the condition of children indicated by stunting. Previously, the village community where the activity was located was unfamiliar with stunting.
2. Participatory community assistance. Target groups were formed for later assistance by officers from NGOs.
3. Integrated Healthcare Centre cadre training to increase knowledge and skills to overcome stunting.
4. Counseling activities in a clean and healthy environment because the environment and sanitation are not clean can be a factor causing nutritional problems.

All these activities were conducted intensely for 8 months. Moreover, partnerships with the health service, Community Health Center and Integrated Healthcare Center cadres and village midwives are forged in implementing the program.

The next stage is evaluation, which includes evaluating programs that have been running and evaluating cooperation between all parties, namely the target community, NGOs and partners in the field. Furthermore, the last stage is termination, which is the end of all program implementation. The NGO intervention in the form of a series of activities in the Healthy Children program was considered successful because it could reduce the prevalence of stunting in the villages where the assistance was located after 8 months of the program running.<sup>5</sup>

### Private companies

In addition to academics and civil society organizations, private companies also take part in handling stunting in Indonesia and are coordinated by PT Indofood Sukses Makmur. These business activities include:

1. Provision of lactation room facilities in the work environment.
2. The provision of mobile units as a means of running health checks (*mobile*) for pregnant women while simultaneously monitoring fetal growth.
3. Education on health and nutrition, provision of healthy canteens and weight loss programs for employees.
4. Provision of basic health service packages.
5. Capacity-building activities at the integrated healthcare center level.

Several private companies focus on stunting prevention in East Java (Table 1).

### THE IMPORTANT ROLE OF MULTI-SECTORAL PARTNERSHIPS IN TACKLING STUNTING

The cause of stunting is not only a lack of intake, but many factors play a role. Economic, sociocultural, educational, environmental, and even political factors also affect the high prevalence of stunting. Therefore, stunting prevention efforts cannot be carried out by only one sector, namely nutrition and health, but many other sectors must participate. Not only must many sectors be involved but stunting prevention efforts also need cooperation between various institutions or organizations to support each other and facilitate the implementation and achievement of goals. Therefore, inter-

institutional partnerships are very important.<sup>15-17</sup>

The study of the activities of government partners, which include the private sector (public-private partnership), academics or universities, civil society organizations, and the community above, shows that all elements of society can play a role according to their respective capacities.<sup>4,8</sup> It follows the National Strategy for the Acceleration of Stunting Prevention, especially in the first pillar, ensuring that stunting prevention is a priority for the government and society at all levels. This pillar maintains and allows up on the national commitment to stunting prevention by directing, coordinating, and strengthening policy strategies and prevention targets carried out by the central, regional, village, and community groups to households.<sup>18</sup> The involvement of government partners through a framework of cooperation between the government and partners is expected to direct the potential of resources in a comprehensive and convergent manner in stunting prevention.<sup>9,19,20</sup>

### CONCLUSION

In preventing stunting, the East Java Provincial Government does not work alone but is assisted by partners from various community elements. Government partnerships with non-government institutions include universities, civil society organizations, companies, and the community. With the various backgrounds of partners, the programs run can vary but are still integrated with the direction of the government. Further studies are needed to evaluate more deeply various programs implemented by government partnerships with non-government institutions so that the target for accelerating stunting reduction can be achieved immediately.

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The authors are responsible for all the study funding by completely used personal

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### Conflict of Interest

No potential conflict of interest relevant to this article was reported.

### Author Contribution

All authors similarly contribute to the think about from the investigate concepts, information acquisitions, information investigation, factual investigations, changing the paper, until detailing the consider comes about through publication.

### Ethical Consideration

None.

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