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Evaluation of the Impact of Stunting Policy in Improving Nutrition in Banyumas Regency

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Abstract

This study examines the effectiveness of Banyumas Regent Regulation Number 25 of 2020 in reducing stunting prevalence in Banyumas Regency, where stunting remains a critical public health and development issue. The research question is: How effective is the regulation in reducing stunting prevalence through targeted nutritional interventions. A mixed-methods approach was employed, combining quantitative survey data from families with toddlers and qualitative interviews with key stakeholders to assess policy implementation and outcomes. The findings show a significant decline in stunting prevalence in 2022 following the regulation's implementation, although an increase in 2023 indicates sustainability challenges. Unlike national-level policy frameworks that provide broad strategic guidelines and standardized targets across regions, this regional regulation translates national priorities into context-specific interventions tailored to local demographic, socio-economic, and institutional conditions in Banyumas. Compared to other local case studies that often focus on program-level initiatives or pilot projects, this regulation represents a formalized and binding district-level legal instrument that integrates cross-sector coordination, budget allocation, and monitoring mechanisms within the local governance structure. The study concludes that while the regulation demonstrated initial effectiveness, sustained stunting reduction requires stronger program implementation, cross-sector coordination, and continuous policy support to ensure long-term impact at the regional level.

KEYWORDS

public policy; stunting; nutrition; impact evaluation; banyumas regency.

Introduction

Stunting is a global concern in various countries. One of the targets *Global Nutrition Targets for 2025* is to reduce the prevalence of stunting in toddlers by up to 40%. Currently, efforts to combat stunting are more focused on the period from pregnancy to toddlerhood. However, stunting prevention during preconception is also important, with intervention targets including women of childbearing age, including adolescents, brides-to-be, and mothers who delay pregnancy (E. Lestari et al., 2023). The World Health Organization (WHO) describes stunting as a developmental problem in children caused by chronic malnutrition, recurrent infections, and inadequate psychosocial stimulation. Stunting occurs when a child's height falls below -2 standard deviations from the median growth standard set by the WHO (WHO, 2015). According to the standard criteria of the *Multicenter Growth Reference Study* (WHO-MGRS), stunting is characterized by a height that is far below average (WHO, 2018). The World Health Organization (WHO) reports that in 2018, 22% of toddlers worldwide were stunted. In Indonesia, the findings of the National Socio-Economic Survey (Susenas) and the 2019 Indonesian Child Nutrition Status Study (SSGBI) showed a stunting prevalence of 27.67%, exceeding the WHO global threshold of 22% (Risksdas, 2018a).

Stunting is a growth disorder in children under five caused by chronic malnutrition, resulting in height that is not appropriate for their age. In Indonesia, around 30.8% or nearly 8 million children are stunted (Risksdas, 2018b). Indonesia ranks fifth with the highest prevalence of stunting in the world. Children who experience stunting tend to have suboptimal intelligence levels, are more susceptible to diseases, and face the risk of decreased productivity in the future. The impact can be widespread, such as hindering

economic growth, increasing poverty rates, and exacerbating social inequality (Peraturan Bupati Banyumas Nomor 25 Tahun 2020, 2023).

The Indonesian government implements two types of interventions in dealing with stunting, namely Specific Nutrition Interventions and Sensitive Nutrition Interventions. Specific Nutrition Interventions focus on children's First 1,000 Days of Life (HPK) and contribute about 30% to stunting reduction. This intervention is typically implemented in the healthcare sector and yields results in a relatively short timeframe. Examples of these intervention activities include supplemental feeding (PMT) for pregnant women to overcome deficiencies in energy, protein, iron, folic acid, and iodine; malaria prevention; and worm treatment (Sumarni, 2015). In addition, this intervention supports Early Breastfeeding Initiation (IMD), exclusive breastfeeding for 6 months, and MP-breastfeeding after 6 months of age. Other activities include iron fortification, immunization, and diarrhea treatment. Sensitive Nutrition Interventions provide an indirect impact on stunting reduction through a long-term approach involving the role of government, the private sector, cross-programs, and communities (Ridua & Djurubassa, 2020).

According to (Peraturan Bupati Banyumas Nomor 25 Tahun 2020, 2023) the prevalence of stunting in toddlers in Banyumas Regency reaches 32%, whereas the national target is less than 20%. Therefore, immediate and sustainable solutions are needed through collaboration among the government, the private sector, and the community. As part of these efforts, the Regent's Regulation on the Regional Action Plan (RAD) for the Prevention and Handling of Stunting in Banyumas was formulated to significantly reduce the prevalence of stunting in the region. According to the (TNP2K, 2017). The Indonesian government pays great attention to the problem of stunting, especially in finding solutions to address and reduce its prevalence. The stunting intervention recommendations consist of five main pillars, namely: the commitment and vision of state leaders, national campaigns that focus on improving understanding and behavior change, political commitment and accountability, convergence and coordination of programs between the central government, regions, and communities, as well as policies related to food security and program evaluation (TNP2K, 2017b).

According to (Nurchayanti & Rahmansyah, 2023) Banyumas Regency has set a target to reduce stunting cases to 14% by 2024. Various efforts are made by local governments, one of which is by instructing all Local Government Organizations (OPD) to carry out activities such as child nutrition interventions, improving home conditions, and increasing water availability. As shown in Table 1, the achievements in handling stunting in Banyumas Regency from 2021 to 2023 indicate fluctuating trends

Based on data from 2021–2023, the stunting rate in Banyumas was 21.6% in 2021, decreased to 16.6% in 2022, but rose again to 20.9% in 2023. The decline in 2022 indicates effective interventions; however, the increase in 2023 suggests sustainability issues in the programs. This raises questions about the long-term effectiveness of stunting reduction initiatives, such as Supplemental Feeding (PMT) and nutritional interventions for pregnant women, as well as potential weaknesses in program implementation and coverage. Stunting management has been focused on 15 villages with the highest cases across several sub-districts. Prevention efforts are supported by local policy through Banyumas Regent Regulation No. 25 of 2020 on the Regional Action Plan for the Acceleration of Stunting Prevention and Reduction, which serves as a guideline for local government and stakeholders. This study aims to evaluate the impact of public policies on nutritional improvement through the stunting reduction program in Banyumas and to identify

factors influencing policy evaluation, with a specific focus on the implementation of Regent Regulation No. 25 of 2020. This study addresses that gap by evaluating the impact of Banyumas Regent Regulation Number 25 of 2020 using an impact evaluation perspective and William N. Dunn's policy evaluation criteria. Specifically, this research seeks to: (1) assess the impact of the regulation on stunting reduction in Banyumas Regency; and (2) analyze the factors influencing the effectiveness and sustainability of its implementation. By focusing on a district-level regulatory framework, this study contributes empirical evidence on how local public policy design and institutional capacity shape nutrition outcomes in decentralized governance contexts.

Public Policy Evaluation

In the modern era, public policies that support social inclusion are a top priority for many countries and local governments. The focus of this policy is to reduce social inequality and ensure justice for all citizens. By implementing strategic and concrete measures, public policies can catalyze the realization of an inclusive society, where everyone has an equal opportunity to contribute and benefit from the development process (Melati & Asmorowati, 2023). According to (Permatasari, 2020) Policy evaluation is the final stage in the policy process. At this stage, an assessment of the implementation of the policy is carried out, including identifying the shortcomings, advantages, and impacts produced, both positive and negative. In addition, evaluation serves as an important reference to formulate the next policies that will be implemented by the government or the implementing party.

A careful assessment of the implementation and results of these policies is an important factor in determining whether the policy has achieved its stated objectives and in identifying ways to improve its effectiveness in the future. (Winarno, 2012) defines public policy evaluation as an activity related to the estimation or assessment of policies that have been implemented, including aspects of substance, implementation, and impact. Functionally, policy evaluation is considered the final stage in the policy implementation process. As the final part of the series, this stage has a very important role and is carried out after the public policy is implemented. While evaluation is typically in the final stages of the policy cycle, this process can also be applied to other functional activities within the policy. Thus, all consequences of the policy process can be evaluated without having to wait for the policy to be implemented (Abubakar Basyarahil, 2011).

According to (Winarno, 2008), policy evaluation has two main tasks: to describe the impact of the policy and to assess its success based on established criteria. This process involves measuring and assessing policy implementation, outcomes, and impacts, which then becomes the basis for subsequent policy steps. Some experts consider evaluation to be the final stage in the policy cycle, while others argue that there is an advanced stage after evaluation. Public policy aims to solve problems but often fails to achieve its targets. Evaluations are conducted to assess achievements and identify the causes of

Table 1. Achievements of Stunting Handling In Banyumas Regency, Year 2021 – 2023

Year	Achievements	Information
2021	21,6%	Stunting incidence rate in Banyumas Regency
2022	16,6%	The stunting rate in Banyumas Regency has been successfully reduced by 5%
2023	20,9%	The stunting rate in Banyumas Regency increased by 4.3% compared to the previous year

Source: primary data is processed

failure, with a primary focus on assessing policy benefits (R. Maulana, 2015). Evaluation is an assessment of the program that has been implemented. According to (Hakim, 2015), policy evaluation assesses the extent to which public policies achieve results by comparing achievement against set goals. Evaluation not only assesses outcomes and impacts, but also the process of implementing policies. Policy evaluation aims to identify important aspects of a policy, including its manufacturing process, implementation, consequences, and effectiveness of impact. According to (Rahman et al., 2015), evaluation also serves as a monitoring tool to assess the effectiveness of policies and account for them to constituents by evaluating the gap between expectations and reality.

Based on the above explanation of policy evaluation, it can be concluded that evaluation is a process to assess the extent to which public policies are implemented, not only to measure results or impacts (consequences), but also to evaluate policy implementation objectively, systematically, and empirically, as well as the extent to which the targets have been set in the previously formulated public policy objectives.

Impact Evaluation

According to (Anderson, 2010), impact evaluation involves assessing changes that are observed as a result of an intervention, including both outputs vs outcomes (what was delivered vs the resulting changes), intended vs unintended impacts, and direct vs indirect consequences. In addition, impact evaluation is the process of measuring changes that occur because of a program or policy, by comparing conditions before and after, as well as between groups affected by the policy and those not affected (control group). The impact dimension is highlighted by: 1) timing: this dimension is an important dimension related to the policies that have a present and future impact, 2) the difference between the actual and expected impacts: the evaluator needs to pay attention to the impacts that are undesirable and contrary to expectations, 3) the level of impact aggregation: the impact felt individually will be able to affect changes in society as a whole, 4) types of impacts, namely: impact on economic life, impact on the policy-making process, impact on public attitude, and impact on quality of individuals, groups, and society that are non-economic (Anderson, 2010).

(Wibawa et al., 1994) argues that in the evaluation there are also social units that can be affected by policies, including: 1) individual impact: the impact on this individual can touch the following aspects: psychological impact, environmental impact, economic impact, social and personal impact, 2) organizational impact: the impact of a policy can be felt by an organization or group, either directly or indirectly. The direct impact can be in the form of disruption or assistance in achieving the goals of an organization or group. Meanwhile, a policy can also have an indirect impact on an organization or group, for example through increased morale and discipline from the members of the organization or group itself, 3) impact on society: the impact on society by a policy shows the extent to which the policy affects the capacity of the community to serve its members, because society is a unit that serves its members, 4) Impact on social institutions and systems: Several indicators can be used as a basic guideline to see whether a social system is weak or not, namely: overload, uneven distribution, resource supply that is considered insufficient, weak adaptation, poor coordination, decreased legitimacy, decreased trust, closed correction and adaptation mechanisms, replaced with a quota system.

In this study, the theory used is the Wibawa theory, which includes individual impacts, organizational impacts, and impacts on social institutions and systems. The theory was chosen because it was by the situation, conditions, and characteristics of this research.

Factors Influencing the Implementation or Evaluation of Public Policies

According to (Van Meter & Van Horn, 1975) in his book *The Policy Implementation Process: A Conceptual Framework*, he explains that six important variables affect the success of policy implementation, namely: 1) policy standards and objectives, 2) resources, 3) communication, 4) characteristics of implementing agencies, 5) social, economic, and political environment, and 6) implementing disposition. In addition, according to (Lipsky, 1980) Factors that affect the implementation or evaluation of public policies consist of four factors, namely: 1) executive discretion, 2) direct interaction with the public, 3) limited time and resources, and 4) bureaucratic work pressure. (William N. Dunn, 1981) in his book *Public Policy Analysis: An Introduction*, he put forward six policy evaluation criteria that can be used to assess the effectiveness and feasibility of a policy. These criteria are:

1. **Effectiveness (*effectiveness*):** This criterion measures the extent to which the policy achieves the goals it has set. The focus is on the tangible results produced by the policy. According to (Ariyani et al., 2024) Effectiveness is the level of success achieved by a person or organization through certain methods that are in accordance with the goals to be achieved. In other words, the more goals that are successfully realized, the more effective an activity will be. Effectiveness is a measure that shows the extent to which management has succeeded in achieving pre-set targets, both in terms of quantity, quality, and time (Ajefri, 2017). In addition, according to (Julianto & Carnarez, 2021) Effectiveness is actually a broad concept and involves a variety of factors, both within and outside the organization. From some of the above definitions, it can be concluded that effectiveness is the level of success of an individual or organization in achieving goals through the right methods. This concept measures the extent to which the set targets are achieved, including aspects of quantity, quality, and time. Additionally, effectiveness is broad, influenced by both internal and external factors within the organization.
2. **Efficiency (*Efficiency*):** assess how much the results achieved are compared to the resources or costs used. Efficient policies deliver maximum results at minimal cost. According to (Samsudin et al., 2024), achieving organizational goals optimally involves managing human resources in a way that aligns employee contributions with the company's vision. Meanwhile, efficiency refers to the optimal use of human resources, minimizing waste and maximizing productivity. Meanwhile, according to (2022), the company's ability to carry out its activities and achieve certain results by utilizing the minimum possible inputs to produce outputs. Additionally, this ability encompasses completing tasks in a timely and appropriate manner. In addition, according to (Susanti & Pratiwi, 2023), Efficiency is a method applied by companies to manage financial resources, processes, materials, labor, equipment, and costs optimally and effectively. So, it can be concluded that efficiency is the achievement of optimal organizational goals, requiring the management of human resources that is aligned with the company's vision, while efficiency focuses on using resources in the most economical way to maximize productivity. Efficiency also includes the ability of companies to use the minimum possible inputs to produce maximum output, while managing various resources effectively and optimally.
3. **Adequacy (*adequacy*):** measures whether the policy is sufficient to solve the problem or achieve the desired goal. That is, whether the policy is adequate in providing a comprehensive solution. According to (Jasmine, 2014) adequacy refers to the extent to which the level of effectiveness can meet the needs, values, or opportunities

that trigger the emergence of a problem. Meanwhile, according to (Nuramalia & Rantau, 2024) Sufficiency is achieved when the goals achieved are considered adequate in various aspects. Nonetheless, adequacy remains related to effectiveness, which is assessed to the extent to which the available options can meet a need, value, or opportunity in solving a problem. From some of the definitions above, it can be concluded that adequacy is a measure of the extent to which an effort's effectiveness can meet the needs, values, or opportunities related to problem-solving. This is achieved when the objectives achieved are considered adequate, but remain closely related to effectiveness, which is evaluated based on the ability of the options available to solve the problem.

4. Equivalence (*equity*): assess whether policies are fair and provide equal benefits to all groups of society, without discrimination. According to (Vandito et al., 2023). Equality refers to a situation in which every person or group has equal opportunities and access to the resources and rights that are available in society. Meanwhile, according to (Andrew Heywood, 2015) Equality in politics differs from equality or uniformity, as its goal is to create conditions in which people can live without sharp disparities by reducing disparities in economic, social, and other distributions. From this understanding, it is concluded that equality is a condition in which every individual has equal opportunities and access to resources and rights, thereby reducing economic, social, and other disparities and creating a more just society.
5. Responsiveness (*Responsiveness*): evaluate the extent to which the policy can respond to the needs, demands, or aspirations of the targeted community. According to (Ramadani, 2021). Responsiveness is an indicator of public service that reflects the ability of the state apparatus to respond to the needs of the community through regulations. Responsiveness is very important in public service because it shows the organization's ability to understand the needs of the community (Ramadani, 2021b). Meanwhile, according to (A. Lestari, 2022) defines responsiveness as the ability to understand community needs, set service agendas and priorities, and design service programs that align with the needs and expectations of the community. So, responsiveness in public services refers to the state apparatus's ability to respond to the community's needs through regulations, and to understand and prepare service priorities in accordance with community expectations.
6. Eligibility (*appropriateness*): Measure whether policies are in accordance with the values, norms, and socio-cultural context of the affected communities. Feasibility can be interpreted as the effort made will provide financial and non-financial benefits by the desired goals (Arnold et al., 2020). Feasibility means an in-depth analysis that will result in a decision as to whether the undertaking will or is undertaking will provide greater benefits compared to the costs incurred (Sukmawati & Nasution, 2019). So, feasibility is an in-depth analysis to determine whether a venture provides greater benefits than the costs incurred, both financially and nonfinancially, by the desired purpose.

These six criteria help policymakers to comprehensively evaluate various aspects of policies, so as to ensure that the policies formulated are not only effective and efficient, but also fair, responsive, and relevant to the needs of the community. In this study, the theory used is William N. Dunn's theory, which includes effectiveness, efficiency, *adequacy*, *equity*, *responsiveness*, and *appropriateness*. Dunn's theory was chosen because it was in accordance with the situation,

conditions, and characteristics of this study.

The Concept of Stunting

Stunting is a condition in which a child experiences growth retardation, resulting in their height being shorter than that of children their age, primarily due to malnutrition. Its height, which is below normal, is caused by a lack of nutritional intake that lasts for a long period of time (Hartati et al., 2024). According to Swaying with this (Nurfadillah & Rahim, 2024). Defining stunting as a health problem is crucial, as it can impact the quality of human resources in the future. As the next generation of the nation, adolescents need to be aware of the importance of adequate and balanced nutritional intake, as well as maintaining health through good behavior and avoiding the risk of early marriage. In addition, according to (Aziz et al., 2024). Stunting is a condition in which a child is malnourished, resulting in delayed growth and development. Meeting the family's food needs is crucial for ensuring children's nutritional intake, as well as a step towards reducing and addressing stunting in the community.

According to (Yuliasri & Indawati, 2024), stunting causes disease, disability, and death in children, as well as reduced intelligence, increased disease susceptibility, and decreased productivity in the future. This ultimately hinders economic growth, exacerbates poverty, and widens inequality. Stunting is a condition of failure to grow in children under five due to chronic malnutrition, especially in the first 1,000 days of life (HPK). The causes include poor nutritional intake, recurrent infections, and poor parenting. Children are categorized as stunting if their height is shorter than the standard age of their age. This dwarfism reflects failure to grow from infancy in the womb to the age of two, with 1,000 HPK as a critical period that affects physical growth, intelligence, and future productivity (Dewi et al., 2023). In this regard, according to (Jatmiko & Muzajjad, 2024). Stunting is a global problem because of its impact on reducing children's intellectual capacity, which in turn can reduce the competitiveness and quality of Indonesia's human resources (HR) in the future.

Based on the above explanation of stunting, it can be concluded that stunting is a serious health problem, especially in children, caused by chronic malnutrition, especially during the first 1,000 days of life (HPK). Stunting not only affects children's physical growth, but also their intelligence, competitiveness, and the quality of human resources in the future. The impact can hinder economic growth, worsen poverty, and widen social inequality. Therefore, it is important to meet the nutritional needs of children and increase public awareness about the importance of good parenting and stunting prevention.

Methods

This study employed a qualitative descriptive design to evaluate the impact of Banyumas Regent Regulation Number 25 of 2020 on stunting reduction in Banyumas Regency. The research focused on assessing policy outcomes and identifying factors influencing its implementation. Primary data refers to spoken words, gestures, or behaviors provided directly by respondents. In this study, primary data were obtained through in-depth interviews with key stakeholders, including representatives from the Banyumas Regency Health Office and Bapedalitbang, who are directly involved in the planning and implementation of stunting programs. Secondary data were collected from official documents, regulatory texts, planning reports, budget data, and stunting prevalence statistics from 2021–2024. Informants were selected using purposive sampling based on their authority, expertise, and direct involvement in the policy process. Data collection techniques included semi-structured interviews, document analysis, and

review of statistical and administrative reports related to program performance. Data were analyzed using an interactive approach consisting of data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing. The findings were categorized according to impact dimensions (individual, organizational, and institutional) and evaluated using William N. Dunn's criteria: effectiveness, efficiency, adequacy, equity, responsiveness, and appropriateness. Triangulation between interview results and documentary evidence was applied to strengthen validity and ensure consistency of interpretation.

Result and Discussion

The results of in-depth interviews with representatives from the Banyumas Regency Health Office (dr. Novita Sabjan, M.M.) and Bapedalitbang show that stunting policies have had a significant impact both directly and indirectly on individuals, organizations, and social systems.

Impact on Individuals and Organizations

Respondents from the Health Office said that the stunting policy has a positive psychological impact on stunted families under five, especially because of education and support from the government. In terms of organization, improvements have been made in the implementation of surveillance activities, the use of anthropometric tools, and the application of the SIGIZI-KESGA system, which enhances the accuracy and effectiveness of nutrition monitoring for toddlers. On the other hand, Bapedalitbang noted that this policy has an impact on behavior change through the provision of nutrition education and supplementary food at health centers, as well as affecting stunting intervention planning in 2025.

Environmental, Economic, and Social Impacts

This policy encourages improvements in sanitation and access to clean water. Local PMT assistance, necessities, and eggs show a direct economic impact on stunted families under five. Bapedalitbang highlighted that there is an increase in income through the empowerment program for mothers under five. The social impact is evident in the growing public awareness of the importance of nutrition and healthy parenting.

Policy Achievements and Impacts

Although the prevalence decreased, the subsequent rise suggests challenges to program sustainability. As presented in [Table 2](#), the fluctuation in stunting reduction achievements from 2022 to 2024 indicates that maintaining a consistent downward trend remains difficult. The two speakers emphasized that the target of <14% in 2024 is still difficult to achieve due to the dynamics of the field.

Institutions and Social Systems

From an institutional perspective, the Health Office acknowledges the existence of overwork, uneven distribution of tasks, and a shortage of nutritionists (only 2-3 people until 2024). On the other hand, Bapedalitbang considers that the distribution of work is even, and in the TPPS Decree. Coordination between institutions was considered good by the two speakers, but it was not optimal in integration across OPDs. The role of TPPS in Sub-districts and Villages is very important in strengthening the policy roots at the lower level.

Evaluation Based on Dunn's Criteria

1. Effectiveness: The policy shows partial effectiveness. Although success indicators such as TTD coverage, exclusive breastfeeding, and growth and development monitoring have improved, the prevalence of stunting has not consistently decreased.

2. Efficiency: There is budget efficiency in 2025 at the Health Office, but the allocation has dropped drastically from IDR 21.9 billion (2023) to IDR 180 million (2025), potentially hindering sustainability. Budget absorption is quite high (2024: 98.95%).
3. Adequate: Human resources in the Health Office are considered insufficient until the end of 2024, only sufficient in 2025. Meanwhile, the technical and reporting aspects still need to be strengthened.
4. Equity: The program is considered fair and inclusive, reaching remote communities through cadres and TPK. The distribution of aid is evenly distributed according to nutritional risk categories.
5. Responsiveness: The local government is considered responsive to community complaints. Mechanisms such as complaint stalls and stunting discussions are used to absorb and follow up on aspirations.
6. Eligibility: The local approach through local food-based PMT and MSME support reflects the suitability of the policy with Banyumas' social values and conditions.

Based on the evaluation framework of [William N. Dunn \(1981\)](#), policy implementation can be analyzed through six evaluative dimensions and six variables that affect the success of implementation.

Analysis Based on Dunn's Evaluation Criteria

1. Effectiveness: The policy shows limited effectiveness. In 2022, the achievement of stunting fell to 16.6%, but it will rise again in 2023 (20.9%) and is estimated at 19.6% in 2024. This instability suggests that despite ongoing interventions, not all determinants of stunting (such as family food security, water quality, and parenting behaviors) have been resolved systemically.
2. Efficiency: budget realization shows efficiency (2024: 98.95%), but the budget allocation has decreased drastically from IDR 21.9 billion (2023) to only IDR 180 million (2025). This has the potential to weaken interventions, especially if it is associated with the achievement of the national target of <14% by 2024. Cost-output analysis is still limited at Health Office 3.
3. Adity: Relatively adequate policies in providing services and education. However, the limitation of human resources (nutritionists), the lack of details of OPD's duties in regulations, and weak reporting integration show that sufficiency has not been achieved comprehensively.
4. Equity: The distribution of interventions was considered fair by both speakers. The program reaches remote villages through cadres, local PMT, and the role of TPK. Social justice in access to nutritious food, health services, and children's education is comprehensively fulfilled.
5. Responsiveness: the policy of responding to community complaints quickly through complaint stalls and Musrenbang. Community proposals from the village to district levels are accommodated in the planning document (Renja). This shows the high openness and adaptation of the local government.
6. Eligibility: policies are considered socially and culturally feasible. The provision of PMT based on local food aligns with local wisdom, supports MSMEs, and is well-received by the community. This locally based approach strategy is an example of a strong adaptation to Banyumas' values and social conditions.

Table 2. The Achievement of Stunting Reduction Fluctuates

Year	Decline Achievement (%)
2022	16,6%
2023	20,9%
2024	estimated at 19.6% (The Health Office has not yet issued an official SSGI)

Source: primary data is processed

Analysis Based on Dunn's Six Implementation Factors

1. Policy standards and objectives: The policy objectives are clear, namely, to reduce stunting to <14%. However, the difference between the central target and the regional achievement shows that the implementation standard has not been adjusted to local capacity conditions.
2. Resources: limited professional personnel (nutritionists, health center personnel) and declining budgets cause programs to not be implemented evenly and sustainably. Insufficient human resources make supervision and intervention unable to reach all regions optimally.
3. Communication: coordination between OPDs is considered good, but the reporting and data integration system has not been maximized. Top-down and bottom-up communication has been carried out through Musrenbang and stimulating discussions, but there is a need for improvement in digital communication and inter-application across sectors.
4. Characteristics of implementing institutions: The Health Office and Bappedalitbang show adaptive capacity, but the lack of detail in the delegation of tasks and the disproportionate work structure make the policy not uniform in its implementation at the village and sub-district levels.
5. Social, economic, and political environment: the program runs in a supportive socio-cultural context. The community showed good acceptance of the program, especially local PMT and household interventions. However, economic fluctuations and post-pandemic conditions are still sustainability challenges.
6. Implementing disposition: officers and cadres show high enthusiasm in carrying out the program. However, the lack of advanced training and high workload can affect enthusiasm and accuracy in implementation in the field.

By considering all these dimensions, the implementation of stunting policies in Banyumas has had a positive impact but is still unstable in terms of long-term performance. Institutional strengthening strategies, improving work structures between OPDs, improving human resources, and harmonizing data and cross-sector reporting are needed to ensure that policies run in a sustainable, efficient, and inclusive manner.

Conclusion

This study shows that the implementation of Banyumas Regent Regulation Number 25 of 2020 has produced multidimensional impacts at the individual, organizational, and institutional levels, including improved nutrition awareness, strengthened growth monitoring, expanded service access, and greater community involvement through locally based interventions; however, the fluctuation of stunting prevalence from 16.6% (2022) to 20.9% (2023) and an estimated 19.6% (2024) indicates that these achievements remain unstable and face sustainability challenges. Unlike prior studies that predominantly examined clinical determinants or program implementation outputs, this research contributes a comprehensive district-level impact evaluation using William N. Dunn's policy criteria, demonstrating that the key constraint lies not merely in program delivery but in structural and governance factors such as inconsistent budgeting, limited human resources, uneven workload distribution across OPDs, and the absence of an integrated cross-sector monitoring system. The findings underline that long-term stunting reduction requires institutional strengthening through clearer role distribution and coordination mechanisms, stable and performance-based budget allocations, expansion and continuous training

of nutrition personnel, development of an integrated digital data system across sectors, and reinforcement of preventive and upstream interventions including maternal nutrition, sanitation, food security, and family economic empowerment; therefore, a coordinated, data-driven, and institutionally aligned policy framework is essential to ensure sustainable progress toward achieving the national stunting reduction target below 14%. Aligned with William N. Dunn's evaluation criteria, policy improvement should focus on strengthening effectiveness through integrated outcome-based monitoring, enhancing efficiency via performance-based budgeting and clear role distribution, ensuring adequacy by aligning resources with case burden and reinforcing upstream interventions, promoting equity through needs-based targeting of high-prevalence areas, improving responsiveness through community feedback mechanisms, and reinforcing appropriateness with clearer regulatory mandates and stronger cross-sector coordination to ensure sustainable stunting reduction. Stunting policies in Banyumas Regency have improved cross-sector coordination and program coverage; however, implementation remains fragmented across agencies, with inconsistent funding allocations, overlapping responsibilities among OPDs, and the absence of an integrated monitoring system. A more coordinated, data-driven, and institutionally aligned approach is required to ensure measurable and sustainable long-term reductions in stunting prevalence.

Author contributions

Amud Sunarya developed the theoretical framework, research methodology, and quantitative data analysis. Milwan contributed to field data collection, in-depth interviews, and the analysis of local policy context. Jayanti Armida Sari conducted the literature review, qualitative data analysis, and drafting of the final manuscript. All authors reviewed, provided substantial input, and approved the final version of the manuscript for publication.

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Conflict of interest

The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interest related to the research or publication of this article.

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