

# Policy Analysis of The Regent's Decision on Stunting in Nganjuk Regency

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## Abstract

Stunting remains a significant public health challenge in Indonesia, including the Nganjuk Regency, where high prevalence rates persist despite national intervention programs. Stunting, characterized by chronic malnutrition, affects children's physical and cognitive development, leading to long-term socioeconomic consequences. Addressing this issue requires comprehensive, data-driven policies supported by cross-sectoral collaboration and sustainable interventions. This study aims to analyze the policy of the Regent of Nganjuk on accelerating the reduction of stunting rates in 2023. The research evaluates the effectiveness of local government strategies in implementing national stunting reduction programs and identifies key challenges and opportunities for improvement. A qualitative approach was employed using a literature review to examine policy implementation and provide strategic recommendations. The study analyzed existing policies, regulatory frameworks, and best practices from other regions to assess their applicability in Nganjuk Regency. The findings indicate that a data-driven approach involving multisectoral collaboration and extensive community education has positively impacted the reduction of stunting rates. However, significant challenges persist, including limited health personnel, inadequate infrastructure, and uneven access to essential healthcare services. Addressing these challenges requires strengthening monitoring and evaluation mechanisms and leveraging public-private partnerships through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programs to ensure sustainability. The study recommends the establishment of a Regional Regulation (Perda) as a strong legal foundation for long-term stunting management. The conclusion emphasizes the need for synergy between the government, community, and private sector to achieve Indonesia's national stunting reduction target of 14% by 2024. Effective implementation of policies at the local level is crucial in ensuring a healthier future for children in Nganjuk Regency.

**Keywords:** Nganjuk Regency, Policy, Public Health, Regional Regulation, Stunting



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## Introduction

According to the World Health Organization (2018), Reducing health inequalities and ensuring that no one is left behind is part of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Strengthening the evidence on health inequalities in nutrition is needed to support more effective planning, design, and implementation of community nutrition policies, plans, and programs. Efforts to identify and address inequalities and their drivers contribute to the achievement of the six Global Targets 2025 aimed at improving the nutritional status of mothers, infants, and young children, as set out in the 65th World Health Assembly.

Stunting is a long-term nutritional condition characterized by a height that is shorter than the standard height of children of the same age. Insufficient dietary intake during the first

1,000 days of life usually causes this. Riskesdas 2018 data shows that stunting in Indonesia reached 30.8%, far above the 20% threshold set by WHO, which has an impact on cognitive development and economic productivity in the future (Herawati & Sunjaya, 2022).

Chronic malnutrition for years causes stunting. Therefore, someone who is stunted since childhood can also experience disorders due to prolonged malnutrition such as intellectual, mental, and psychomotor disorders. Malnutrition control programs started several years ago, but they do not focus on chronic malnutrition, which causes stunting. As a result, the stunting rate has never decreased, although other malnutrition rates, such as wasting, have decreased significantly. Considering the risk of stunting in the future, it is necessary to analyze the causes and strategies for overcoming stunting based on facts or research evidence. Thus, a decrease in the prevalence of stunting in Indonesia can be achieved. (Chandra, 2020).

Stunting, or the incidence of short toddlers, is one of the nutritional problems still experienced by toddlers throughout the world (Ministry of Health of the Republic of Indonesia, 2018). A community is said to have a severe stunting problem if the Prevalence Prevalence reaches 30% -39%, and this condition is categorized as serious if the Prevalence Prevalence reaches 40% ( World Health Organization, 2018). In Indonesia, the prevalence of stunting is still relatively high and is a health problem that requires serious treatment. The average prevalence of stunting in toddlers in Indonesia is 37%.

**Table 1.** Data Table of Indonesia's Stunting Rates Declining

<i>Year</i>	<i>Stunting Prevalence Prevalence (%)</i>
2018	30.8
2019	27.7
2020	<i>No Data</i>
2021	24.4
2022	21.6
2023	17.8
2024	14.0

Source: <https://indonesia.go.id>

Based on infographics presented by the Indonesian information portal (Indonesia.go.id), the prevalence of stunting in Indonesia has shown a significant decline in recent years. Based on the data, the prevalence of stunting in 2018 was 30.8%, then dropped to 27.7% in 2019 and reached 24.4% in 2021. In 2022, the Prevalence Prevalence dropped again to 21.6%, which is the lowest level in the last ten years. The Indonesian government is targeting a further decline to 17.8% in 2023 and reaching 14% in 2024, in accordance with the target of the National Medium-Term Development Plan (RPJMN).

Cross-sectoral action is needed to address the problem of stunting (Maulana et al., 2024), (Maulana et al., 2024). Maternal and child nutrition issues are mainly caused by

inadequate food intake and disease, as well as poor hygiene and caregiving behavior, inappropriate feeding, and repeated infections and diseases (Maulana et al., 2023), (Maulana et al., 2022). In turn, things like caregivers who are not sufficiently educated and knowledgeable, unhealthy environments, use of unclean water, limited access to food, and low income are the causes (Unicef Indonesia, 2012).

Several factors influence stunting in toddlers, including age, birth length, and adequacy of macronutrients (protein and carbohydrates) and micronutrients (calcium, vitamin A, iron, and zinc). The level of protein adequacy is the main factor influencing stunting (Siringoringo et al., 2020). Furthermore, the findings of an article written by Suryagustina et al. (2018) state that health education has a significant influence on increasing mothers' knowledge and attitudes toward preventing stunting. With the correct information, mothers not only increase their insight but also improve their attitudes and behavior in taking preventive steps to prevent stunting in their children (Suryagustina et al., 2018).

A local policy-based approach has been shown to be one of the most effective methods for reducing stunting rates in communities. Studies show that multi-sectoral policies involving multiple sectors, such as infrastructure, education, and the health sector, can accelerate the decline in stunting rates. For example, combining specific nutrition programs with access to clean water and sanitation can have significant effects (Picauly et al., 2023).

As part of the National Strategy for Accelerating Stunting Reduction (Stranas Stunting) program, the government has set a target of reducing the Prevalence of stunting to 14% by 2024. Findings of the Absence of Specific Regional Regulations on Handling Stunting Regarding several regulations, such as Nganjuk Regent Regulation Number 7 of 2021 concerning Handling Stunting, Nganjuk Regency does not yet have a specific Regional Regulation (Perda) that comprehensively regulates the acceleration of stunting reduction. This draft Perda is essential to provide a stronger legal basis for the implementation of the stunting handling program.

From the description that has been explained previously, there is no specific Regional Regulation (Perda) that comprehensively regulates the acceleration of stunting reduction. This draft Perda is essential to provide a stronger legal basis for the implementation of the stunting management program. Stunting offers an excellent opportunity for local governments to increase the effectiveness of stunting management services. With a region-based approach and precise identification of target groups, health services, and nutritional interventions can be provided directly to families in need. This approach not only facilitates program implementation but also ensures that interventions are carried out by considering the local needs of the community (Imron et al., 2022).

Therefore, this study aims to analyze the policy of the Regent's Decree on Stunting in Nganjuk Regency in 2023 and provide strategic recommendations to accelerate the reduction of stunting. Determining clear target groups through this legal basis allows local governments to monitor and evaluate programs systematically and sustainably. This policy also forms the basis for more effective resource allocation in providing nutritional assistance, health services,

and education for vulnerable families, thus becoming an essential solution in supporting targeted stunting reduction programs.

## Literature Review

### A. Stunting as a Public Health Issue

Stunting is a global health issue that significantly impacts children's physical and cognitive development. The World Health Organization (WHO) defines stunting as impaired growth and development resulting from chronic malnutrition, inadequate psychosocial stimulation, and recurrent infections (WHO, 2018). In Indonesia, stunting remains a critical problem, with prevalence rates exceeding the WHO threshold of 20% (Herawati & Sunjaya, 2022). According to Riskesdas (2018), Indonesia's stunting rate was 30.8%, leading the government to establish national policies and interventions to reduce this figure.

Chronic malnutrition is primarily driven by several interrelated factors, including inadequate dietary intake, poor breastfeeding practices, lack of micronutrients, and insufficient healthcare access. Furthermore, recurrent infections can exacerbate malnutrition through increased metabolic demands and nutrient loss, making early interventions crucial for affected populations. In Indonesia, the challenge of stunting is particularly salient, with significant prevalence rates. As per the Riskesdas (2018) survey, Indonesia reported a stunting rate of 30.8%, a statistic that places the country above the WHO threshold of 20% and marks it as an urgent public health issue (Herawati & Sunjaya, 2022). Such elevated rates indicate chronic nutritional deficiencies exacerbated by socio-economic disparities, cultural practices, and limited access to quality healthcare, especially in rural areas.

The demographic groups most affected include children from low-income families, households with inadequate access to health education, and regions with poor health infrastructure. The issue is further compounded by cultural beliefs and practices surrounding child feeding and health-seeking behaviors, which can hinder effective nutritional interventions. The implications of stunting are both immediate and long-term. Children who experience stunting during their early years face significant cognitive delays, which can translate into poor academic performance and reduced future employability. Additionally, stunting is associated with heightened susceptibility to infections and chronic diseases in later life. The socio-economic consequences extend to diminished productivity on a national scale, perpetuating cycles of poverty and underdevelopment.

### B. Factors Contributing to Stunting

The causes of stunting are multifaceted and include nutritional deficiencies, poor maternal health, inadequate childcare practices, and socioeconomic disparities (Siringoringo et al., 2020). Insufficient intake of macronutrients such as protein and carbohydrates, along with deficiencies in micronutrients like iron, zinc, and vitamin A, contribute to growth retardation in children. Additionally, environmental factors such as inadequate access to clean water, poor sanitation, and repeated infections exacerbate the risk of stunting (Unicef

Indonesia, 2012). Social determinants, including parental education levels and household income, also play a significant role in determining a child's nutritional status (Maulana et al., 2023), (Maulana & Wardah, 2023), (Dini et al., 2022).

Stunting in children, particularly in Indonesia, is a multifaceted issue characterized by growth deficits due to a combination of various factors. These include nutritional deficiencies, poor maternal health, inadequate childcare practices, socioeconomic disparities, and environmental influences such as sanitation and hygiene. Nutritional deficiencies represent a significant contributor to stunting, particularly the lack of essential macronutrients and micronutrients. Inadequate intake of macronutrients, such as proteins and carbohydrates, is widely recognized as a precursor to nutritional shortfalls that directly affect growth and development. For instance, children suffering from micronutrient deficiencies are at a heightened risk of stunted growth due to insufficient energy and protein intake (Suryana et al., 2024; . Furthermore, deficiencies in critical micronutrients, including iron, zinc, and vitamin A, have been shown to exacerbate growth impairment (Suryana et al., 2024; (Littlejohn et al., 2023). A systematic review highlighted that such deficiencies are prevalent among children in low- to middle-income countries, where inadequate dietary diversity and access to nutritious foods are common (Littlejohn et al., 2023).

Maternal health plays a pivotal role in determining a child's nutritional status. Women who experience malnutrition themselves, particularly due to micronutrient deficiencies, are at risk of delivering low birth weight babies, which can contribute to stunting (Adilah et al., 2023). Moreover, the level of maternal education has been identified as a key factor influencing child nutrition; studies show that mothers with lower educational attainment often lack knowledge regarding appropriate feeding practices and health-seeking behaviors, subsequently leading to stunted growth in their children (Fikawati et al., 2021; . The intergenerational transmission of stunting is well-documented, where shorter mothers are more likely to have stunted children, thus perpetuating a cycle of undernutrition (Permatasari & Chadirin, 2022).

Socioeconomic factors significantly influence stunting rates (Sadhana et al., 2025), (Sukardi et al., 2024). Families from lower income brackets often face challenges in accessing quality food, healthcare, and education, which are crucial for child development (Fikawati et al., 2021; (Torlesse et al., 2016; . High levels of poverty are associated with food insecurity, which directly leads to inadequate dietary intake among children (Fikadu et al., 2014). The UNICEF framework for stunting highlights that socioeconomic conditions are fundamental determinants of child nutrition, as they affect both the availability and accessibility of nutritious food (Hoddinott et al., 2013).

Environmental conditions, particularly related to water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), adversely impact child nutritional outcomes. Poor sanitation and inadequate access to clean water are strongly associated with a higher incidence of infections, which further impede nutritional absorption and contribute to stunting (Torlesse et al., 2016; Fikadu et al., 2014). The correlation between improved sanitation and reduced stunting rates has been

documented, suggesting that interventions targeting hygiene and sanitation can substantially influence children's growth trajectories (Torlesse et al., 2016; Hagos et al., 2017).

### C. Effectiveness of Regional Policies in Reducing Stunting

Research suggests that localized policy approaches, including community-based interventions and real-time monitoring, are more effective in addressing stunting (Suryagustina et al., 2018). In regions such as Banyuwangi, integrating corporate social responsibility (CSR) programs into public health initiatives has enhanced funding and service delivery (Herawati et al., 2024). The policy in Nganjuk emphasizes cross-sector collaboration, budget allocation, and educational programs to improve parental awareness of nutrition. However, challenges such as limited healthcare infrastructure, insufficient trained personnel, and logistical constraints in rural areas remain significant obstacles (Imron et al., 2022).

The prevalence of stunting in Indonesia has sparked the urgent need for effective solutions tailored to local contexts. Recent research underscores the significance of localized policy approaches that incorporate community engagement and real-time monitoring to address the complexities surrounding stunting (Suryagustina et al., 2018). Such approaches recognize the multifactorial nature of stunting, which encompasses not only nutritional aspects but also social, economic, and environmental dimensions.

Community-based interventions have emerged as a potent strategy for addressing stunting by promoting local ownership and active participation. These interventions foster a supportive environment where communities can collaboratively identify issues, devise solutions, and monitor outcomes. Evidence suggests that programs focusing on maternal and child health that are rooted in the community yield more sustainable results. For example, programs offering nutritional education and resources specifically tailored to community needs have been shown to mitigate stunting effectively (Suryagustina et al., 2018).

In regions such as Banyuwangi, the integration of CSR initiatives into public health policies has enhanced the financial and operational dimensions of stunting interventions (Herawati et al., 2024). Local businesses partnering with public health departments can provide additional funding and resources, which are essential for expanding service delivery. Such collaborations often result in enhanced program visibility and increased public awareness of the importance of nutrition, ultimately contributing to improved health outcomes for children.

Nganjuk's policy framework emphasizes cross-sector collaboration, facilitating coordinated efforts among various stakeholders, including government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector. By fostering partnerships, the region is better equipped to allocate budgets effectively and implement educational programs aimed at improving parental awareness regarding nutrition. This multifaceted strategy is critical as it not only addresses educational deficits but also links resources and expertise across different sectors, creating a more cohesive approach to combating stunting.

## Method

The study entitled "Policy Analysis of the Regent's Decision on Stunting in Nganjuk Regency in 2023" uses a qualitative method with a literature study approach. The qualitative approach allows researchers to gain an in-depth understanding of the phenomenon through analysis of relevant literature, books, notes, and reports, as expressed by (Hizkia Tobing et al., 2017). The qualitative research method with a literature study approach was chosen because it allows researchers to comprehensively understand the implementation of the stunting management program in Nganjuk Regency, including a review of various secondary data, including related laws and regulations, both at the national and regional levels. In addition, a study was conducted on supporting regulations for implementation, legal documents, and evaluation reports from similar relevant programs. This approach aims to gain a comprehensive understanding and prepare policy recommendations that are in accordance with the needs of the Nganjuk Regency in an effort to reduce stunting rates. With this approach, research can provide in-depth insights into strategic recommendations to accelerate stunting reduction.

## Result and Discussion

### A. Prevalence of Stunting in Indonesia

Stunting has become an essential and urgent problem that the government is paying close attention to. The number of stunting in Indonesia fell from 37.8% in 2013 to 27.67% in 2019. (Imron et al., 2022) West Java, East Java, Central Java, North Sumatra, and Banten are the provinces with the most significant decline in stunting (Herawati et al., 2024). The high stunting rate throughout the country encourages regions to continue to strive to reduce the number of stunting cases. On the other hand, decentralization allows local governments to provide stunting services to target families because it is based on service actions that are closer to the community so that problems can be adequately handled. In fact, stunting is the result of the approach to governance at the regional level, especially in Nganjuk Regency (Imron et al., 2022).

#### 1. Cause and Impact of Stunting

In public health, the term "stunting" refers to a growth condition caused by persistent malnutrition in children. This causes the child not to grow as tall as they should. According to the standards set by the World Health Organization (WHO), a child is said to be stunted if their height for age (measured by the HAZ score) is less than two standard deviations (SD) from the average WHO child growth standard (Zhara et al., 2024). Many factors influence the problem of stunting, both directly and indirectly. Infectious diseases and poor nutritional intake directly cause stunting. Indirectly, stunting can be caused by inappropriate parenting, food, poverty, low education, poor sanitation conditions, poor health services, politics, and cultural conditions. Both of these are caused by a lack of parental knowledge about how to properly care for children (Dini et al., 2022). The community plays a vital role in preventing stunting, especially in terms of health care. Families who have babies who need

complementary foods should pay attention to micro and macro nutritional indicators (Imron et al., 2022).

Choosing several types of food that meet the nutritional needs of toddlers is very important to support their growth and development. The body generally needs six types of nutrients: vitamins, proteins, carbohydrates, fats, minerals, and iron, including zinc and iron. The body uses carbohydrates as the main source of energy for activities because they are stored in fat as a reserve energy source. The body produces fat as an energy source and breaks down vitamins, making them easier for the intestines to absorb. In addition to protein, which functions to replace damaged body cells, minerals, and vitamins also play an important role in providing the nutrients needed for your baby's growth and development. Protein is very important for your baby's development because it helps form new cells (Dewi et al., 2024).

## **B. Policy on Stunting in Nganjuk Regency**

The Regent's decision to target families at risk of stunting is a strategic step that supports the acceleration of stunting reduction in the Nganjuk Regency. This policy is an implementation of the national program to achieve the target of stunting Prevalence below 14% by 2024 (WHO, 2018). The determination of the target is carried out through a comprehensive data-based approach involving the process of identifying areas with the highest stunting prevalence rates. This approach aims to map conditions in detail so that the interventions provided can be right on target and focus on priority groups. Thus, this policy is expected to have a significant impact on reducing stunting rates sustainably while supporting the improvement of the quality of life of the community as a whole.

In terms of implementation, Nganjuk Regency faces challenges in the form of limited health workers and infrastructure in rural areas. Based on data from previous studies, a cross-sectoral approach, as proposed in this policy, has proven effective in accelerating the reduction of stunting (Imron et al., 2022). This approach allows for more integrated and efficient collaboration between various related sectors. In this policy, the local government pays special attention to strengthening cooperation between the health office, village government, and integrated health posts. The main focus is to monitor children's nutritional status regularly, increase public awareness of the importance of balanced nutrition, and expand access to family health services. With this effort, it is hoped that all elements of society can be actively involved in realizing the target of reducing stunting sustainably.

In addition, one of the critical points of this policy is the allocation of an adequate budget to support education programs, provision of additional nutrition, and training of health cadres. Financial support from the APBD and Special Allocation Fund (DAK) is an essential element in program implementation (Herawati & Sunjaya, 2022). In several other areas, such as Banyuwangi, the involvement of the private sector through the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) program has proven to be an efficient step in strengthening the implementation of stunting management programs. This collaboration not only adds

resources but also opens up opportunities for innovation in program implementation. Nganjuk Regency can adopt a similar approach to expand the scope of its programs, reach more targets, and improve the quality of interventions. By utilizing the synergy between the government, community, and private sector, efforts to reduce stunting in Nganjuk Regency are expected to run more optimally and have a significant impact on community welfare.

### C. Strategy and Implementation of Stunting Reduction in Nganjuk Regency

One of the important steps in addressing the pressing public health problem is the implementation of stunting reduction strategies and policies in Nganjuk Regency. This policy aims to accelerate the reduction in stunting rates because the Prevalence of stunting is still high through a data-based approach, cross-sector collaboration, and community education. In this regard, this study investigates the decisions made by the Nganjuk Regent, who emphasized the importance of targeting families at risk of stunting and strengthening regional laws as a legal basis. The national target of reducing the Prevalence of stunting to 14% by 2024 can be achieved through collaboration between the government, community, and related sectors. This will improve the quality of life of the community and children as a whole.

#### 1. Local approach strategies and nutrition education

A locally-based approach is also an advantage in this policy. By considering the needs of the local community, the program can be more adaptive to social and cultural factors. For example, educating mothers about the importance of micro and macronutrient intake in children, such as protein and iron, can increase family understanding and awareness (Siringoringo et al., 2020). The results of the study showed that nutrition education has a direct influence on changes in community behavior related to healthy eating patterns. People who previously did not understand the importance of balanced nutrition began to adopt better habits, such as including animal and vegetable protein sources, vegetables, and fruits in their children's daily diets. Thus, this locally-based approach is expected to be a driving force in improving the nutritional status of the community sustainably and supporting efforts to reduce stunting rates in the area.

#### 2. Effective strategy

The success of this policy also depends heavily on community involvement, especially targeted families, in understanding and implementing healthy lifestyles. Structured education and socialization, including through integrated health posts and health cadres, are essential steps to encourage active community participation. Research shows that high community involvement can accelerate the decline in stunting rates because they are better prepared to carry out preventive measures, such as providing exclusive breastfeeding and fulfilling balanced child nutrition (Suryagustina et al., 2018). Therefore, in this policy, local governments need to strengthen community-based approaches to reach communities more widely and deeply. This approach not only ensures that health information and services are available, but

also builds social support that allows communities to support each other in implementing healthy habits. By ensuring the sustainability of interventions through community involvement, this policy is expected to create significant and sustainable changes in efforts to reduce stunting rates in the region.

### **3. Implementation challenges**

However, in its implementation, there are still several obstacles that need to be overcome, such as limited, accurate data on families at risk of stunting and logistical barriers to reaching remote areas. Therefore, strengthening the monitoring and evaluation system, as proposed in the policy document, is very important. This system can monitor the progress of program implementation in real time and provide feedback for improvement. Overall, the Regent's decision is a step forward to address stunting in the Nganjuk Regency systematically. Data-based policy support, adequate budget, and cross-sector coordination are expected to achieve the target of significantly reducing stunting rates. Strong collaboration with the community and other sectors is also key to the sustainability of this program.

### **4. Long term impact**

In addition to direct intervention, this policy is also expected to have a long-term impact on human resource development in Nganjuk Regency. Children who are free from the risk of stunting have the potential to grow with better health and optimal cognitive abilities. In this context, handling stunting is not only a health issue but also an investment in long-term economic development. Studies show that reducing stunting can increase community productivity and reduce the burden of health financing in the future (Picauly et al., 2023). Thus, this policy is not only relevant for the current generation but also provides benefits for the sustainability of future generations.

Despite its great potential, the implementation of this policy also faces several challenges that need to be overcome. One of the main challenges is ensuring budget sustainability amidst regional fiscal constraints. Collaboration with the private sector through CSR programs can strengthen program funding, such as providing nutritional packages or assistance for health facilities. In addition, efforts are needed to increase the capacity of health workers in the regions, both through training and incentives, so that they have sufficient motivation and ability to carry out this program. Overall, the success of the policy of targeting families at risk of stunting in Nganjuk Regency requires synergy between the local government, the community, and other sectors. With a systematic and evidence-based approach, this policy can be an effective model for addressing stunting at the local level. Strong support for policy implementation, both in terms of technical and funding, will ensure that the short-term goal of reducing the Prevalence of stunting can be achieved while supporting the sustainable development agenda in Nganjuk Regency.

## Conclusion

Handling stunting in Nganjuk Regency through the Regent's policy on targeting families at risk of stunting is a strategic step supported by a data-based approach, cross-sector collaboration, and community empowerment. This policy aims to achieve the national target of reducing the Prevalence of stunting below 14% by 2024. A local approach that is adaptive to the social and cultural needs of the community is the main strength in implementing this policy. Adequate budget support and collaboration with the private sector through CSR programs strengthen the sustainability of the program. However, challenges such as limited health workers, infrastructure in rural areas, and budget sustainability remain obstacles that must be overcome.

The success of this policy not only contributes to reducing the prevalence of stunting but also has a broader impact, namely improving the quality of life of children, who will be the main assets of the future of Nganjuk Regency. Children who grow up with good nutritional status have a greater chance of achieving their maximum potential, both physically, cognitively, and socially. In this context, the stunting management program also has strategic value in supporting the development of quality human resources, which ultimately contributes to poverty reduction, improving community welfare, and achieving sustainable development in the region.

In addition, this policy has a very significant long-term impact on the development of future generations. Children who are free from the risk of stunting tend to have better learning abilities, higher endurance, and optimal work productivity in adulthood. On a broader scale, the success of this program can reduce the economic burden caused by high health costs due to malnutrition and improve the quality of the workforce in the future. Thus, this strategic recommendation is not only a short-term solution to the problem of stunting but also an essential investment in the economic and social development of the Nganjuk Regency community.

Stunting management policies implemented with an evidence-based approach and cross-sector collaboration can be an inspiring model for other regions. Efforts to reduce the Prevalence of stunting in Nganjuk Regency show that strong synergy between the government, community, and private sector can create sustainable positive impacts. With a commitment that continues to be maintained, this policy can be a solid foundation for creating a healthy, intelligent, and productive generation while realizing the regional vision towards a more prosperous future.

Suggestions that the Nganjuk regional government can adapt are as follows: strengthening the real-time monitoring and evaluation system to ensure program effectiveness and identify obstacles quickly. Collaboration with the private sector through CSR and strengthening integrated health posts can increase funding and community participation. In addition, training and incentives for health workers in rural areas must be improved to support service quality. Family-based education programs, especially for mothers, need to be adjusted to socio-cultural conditions to be more effective. Accurate and up-to-date data collection is also a priority to ensure targeted and sustainable interventions.

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