

The Impact of the Use of Village Funds on Stunting Prevention Policies in Nagari Padang Lua, Agam Regency

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ABSTRACT

This descriptive qualitative research examines the impact of village funds on stunting prevention policies in Nagari Padang Lua, Agam Regency. Data were collected from relevant agencies and parties in the village through interviews, observations, and documentation studies, then reduced to obtain accurate conclusions. The results show that the Nagari government has conducted stunting socialization, integrated healthcare center services for pregnant women and toddlers, and provision of the Supplementary Feeding Program (PMT) for toddlers. However, these programs have not been effective in preventing stunting due to the lack of involvement of pregnant women and parents of toddlers as the main targets, limited integrated healthcare center facilities and infrastructure, and low community participation and awareness.

KeyWords: Policy Impact, Village Fund, Prevention, Stunting, Nagari Padang Lua.



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INTRODUCTION

Stunting is a condition where a person's height is lower than their age standard. Stunted toddlers tend to get sick easily, are slow to develop physically and cognitively, and are vulnerable to degenerative diseases later in life. Stunting can be caused by non-optimal catch-up growth or poor nutritional fulfillment from the womb to early childhood. Factors that influence stunting include pregnant women's knowledge about health and nutrition, as well as fetal and infant nutritional intake (Village Handbook on Stunting Management, 2017). The government has made reducing stunting a national priority and involves all levels down to the village. One way to address stunting is by allocating village funds for prevention programs, by Law No. 6/2014 on Villages. Village funds come from the national budget and are used to improve the welfare of village communities. Village finances include village rights and obligations related to revenue, expenditure, financing, and village financial management. Presidential Regulation No. 72/2021 stipulates that village governments must prioritize the use of village funds to support the acceleration of stunting reduction in their villages.

West Sumatra is one of the provinces with the highest prevalence of stunting in Indonesia. In 2013, the stunting rate in this province reached 39.2%, then dropped to 30% in 2018. BAPPENAS RI designated three districts in West Sumatra as priority areas for handling stunting, namely Pasaman, West Pasaman, and Solok (Fathur, 2019). However, the use of village funds for stunting prevention has not had a significant impact in West Sumatra. Some examples of cases are as follows; In Nagari Pulakek Koto Baru, South

Solok Regency, the stunting prevention policy is not running optimally due to limited budget and health personnel to conduct nutritional surveillance at integrated healthcare center and public health center (Sari & Yusran, 2022); In Nagari Kajai West Pasaman, although village funds are used for stunting prevention activities, their effectiveness is low due to the lack of community knowledge and understanding of the dangers and consequences of stunting (Kinanti & Yusran, 2022); In Nagari Tanjuang Bonai, North Lintau Buo District, the Healthy Village House (RDS) program established with village funds has not produced many activities due to limited village funds (Juita & Yusran, 2022).

The increasing prevalence of stunting has led to an increase in the use of village funds. In this context, the implementation of stunting reduction policies in villages is generally implemented in the form of specific and sensitive nutrition interventions. What is interesting about this phenomenon is, how villages implement stunting reduction policies with the village budget. And has the use of village funds had an impact on stunting reduction, or in other words, what policy outcomes have been achieved? The results of implementing a policy are the current or past consequences of implementing a policy that has been previously determined (Dunn, 2018). The result of implementing a policy is to estimate whether the policy produces the expected effect (Akbar & Mohi, 2018). The consequences of policy implementation can also be seen from program interventions on target groups and the extent to which the consequences are likely to create new patterns of behavior in target groups (Anggara, 2014). In assessing the implementation of a policy, we must identify changes in society related to the actions of government activities (Dye, 2017). In assessing the implementation of a policy, it can also be seen from the achievement of the consequences of a policy that has been previously determined in real-life conditions (Situmorang, 2016). This study aims to understand how Nagari Padang Lua uses village funds for the implementation of stunting reduction policies from the perspective of the resulting policy impact.

METHODS

The descriptive qualitative method was used to analyze the impact of village funds on stunting prevention policies in Nagari. The research location was Nagari Padang Lua, Agam Regency. Informants were selected using the purposive sampling technique, which is based on criteria relevant to the research problem (Sugiyono, 2012). Informants consisted of the Secretary of the Wali Nagari Padang Lua, the Head of the Padang Lua Nagari Government Service Section, the Chairperson of the Padang Lua Nagari Bamus, the Nutrition Program Manager of the Padang Lua Public Health Center, village midwives and Integrated healthcare center cadres as well as pregnant women and parents of toddlers in Nagari Padang Lua. Data were collected through in-depth interviews, field observations, and documentation. Data validity was tested using source triangulation, which compares data from different sources. The data were then reduced, presented, and concluded.

RESULTS

The stunting rate in Agam Regency has fluctuated in the last five years. Data sourced

from the Indonesian Nutrition Status Survey shows that in 2018 the stunting rate in this district reached %. However, this figure decreased to 26.64% in 2019 and dropped sharply to 10.9% in 2020. Unfortunately, this trend did not continue, rising to 19.1% in 2021 and then jumping to 24.6% in 2022 (In Document of BAPPEDA, 2023). In 2021, there was an announcement by the Agam Regent that designated Agam as an integrated stunting locus area. The involvement of relevant DPOs such as Bappeda and DPMN is crucial in overcoming the stunting crisis in the district. The number of Nagari that were initially affected by stunting significantly amounted to 18 Nagari, then increased to 31 Nagari according to AGAM in 2021. In addition, Agam Regency's efforts to reduce national stunting are also prioritized according to Decree No.KEP.42/MPPN/HK/04/2020 by the Minister of National Development Planning/Head of Bappenas in 2020 (Welfizar, 2020).

For this reason, Agam Regency issued Agam Regent Regulation No. 38/2021 concerning Nagari Budget Cost Standards for preventing and reducing stunting. This regulation stipulates that integrated healthcare center cadres receive an honorarium of IDR 200,000 per month (Chapter 12 paragraph (3)) and Nagari allocates funds of IDR 7,500 per person per month for PMT for toddlers (Chapter 38 paragraph (2)). In addition, this regulation also follows the Ministry of Villages Regulation No. 8 of 2022 on the Priority Use of Village Funds, which requires villages to take promotive and preventive actions to prevent and reduce stunting (Chapter 6 paragraph (2)).

Among the villages in Agam Regency, Nagari Padang Lua has a fairly high percentage of stunting, namely 9.3%, out of 464 toddlers in Nagari Padang Lua, 43 of them are stunted. The data was taken in August 2022, weighing and measuring stunting is held every February and August of each year, this makes Nagari Padang Lua ranked 3rd out of 7 villages with high stunting rates in Banuhampu District. Meanwhile, the number of pregnant women in Nagari Padang Lua is 45 people. In preventing stunting, the efforts given by Nagari Padang Lua are the PMT in the golden period or the first 1,000 days of life (HPK), the implementation of an integrated healthcare center for pregnant women, infants, and toddlers, and the socialization of stunting meetings for integrated healthcare center cadres and community leaders. Based on Chapter 11 paragraph (2) of Presidential Regulation No. 72/2021, in preventing stunting in the village, the Village Government prioritizes the use of village funds in supporting the implementation of accelerated stunting reduction. In preventing stunting through the use of village funds, the efforts provided by Nagari Padang Lua are the PMT, the implementation of an integrated healthcare center for pregnant women and toddlers, and the socialization of stunting meetings for integrated healthcare center cadres and community leaders.

Furthermore, the Padang Lua Nagari Government has provided a special budget for PMT of Rp. 7,500 per person every month through the village budget and revenue. PMT is provided by the village government in the form of funds which will be given to integrated healthcare center cadres and integrated healthcare center cadres provide monthly to infants and toddlers during integrated healthcare center activities. PMT aims to provide additional food that is to the nutritional needs of children so that their weight is ideal for their age. Additional food can come from local foods or factory foods. PMT is very important because children who are underweight while growing up face serious problems. The budget provided by the Padang Lua Nagari Government for the socialization of stunting and integrated healthcare center services to prevent stunting in Nagari Padang Lua can be seen in the following Table 1 below.

Table 1. Nagari Padang Lua Stunting Prevention Budget

No	Year	Honor of Cadres	PMT	Socialization of stunting meetings
1	2019	13.500.000	10.800.000	4.295.500
2	2020	10.800.000	18.000.000	5.905.000
3	2021	10.800.000	16.800.000	5.905.000
4	2022	14.400.000	21.000.000	6.005.000
5	2023	14.400.000	21.000.000	5.980.000

Source: APB Nagari Padang Lua 2019-2023.

There are several programs for using village funds to prevent stunting in Nagari Padang Lua, namely:

First, the use of village funds is used for stunting socialization activities which are held once a year. This activity discusses various efforts to prevent and handle stunting in the village. This activity aims to design stunting prevention programs and provide specific and sensitive nutrition intervention materials that are the main causes and supporting factors of stunting. The Padang Lua Nagari Government has provided a special budget for stunting socialization activities through the village budget and revenue and brought in resource persons from the health sector. The Padang Lua Nagari Government through the Bamus (Deliberative Body) of Padang Lua Nagari as the implementer of this socialization invites integrated healthcare center cadres and community leaders to participate in the socialization of stunting. The socialization of stunting is useful for educating the community, especially pregnant women and parents of toddlers, about efforts to prevent stunting in Nagari Padang Lua through the intermediary of integrated healthcare center cadres.

Second, the utilization of village funds for integrated healthcare center services for pregnant women and toddlers. This activity is carried out regularly on the 2nd week of each month to monitor the growth and development of pregnant women and toddlers. The Padang Lua Nagari Government has provided a special budget for integrated healthcare center activities through the Nagari budget and expenditure income of Rp 21,000,000 per year. In the context of utilizing this village fund, the village government only provides an activity budget. Meanwhile, the implementation of integrated healthcare center activities is carried out by the health center integrated healthcare center cadres. In integrated healthcare center activities there are 5M services, namely the first table for registration, the second table for weighing and measuring height, the third table for filling KMS (Card Towards Health), the fourth table for nutrition counseling, and the fifth table for health services and providing additional food.

In addition, the utilization of village funds through integrated healthcare centers is also carried out to check the developmental growth of toddlers. This developmental check is done by measuring the height and weight of children under five. These height and weight measurements are useful for integrated healthcare center cadres and village midwives for early detection in finding baduta (toddlers less than two years old) who are indicated to be stunted. In addition to weighing, and measuring weight and height, integrated healthcare center cadres also deliver material about what must be done to fulfill good nutrition for pregnant women and toddlers. The material presented is material that integrated healthcare center cadres get when participating in the socialization of stunting meetings. Nutritional counseling is also useful for increasing a mother's awareness and knowledge so that their children are not affected by stunting.

Third, the utilization of village funds for PMT activities, in integrated healthcare center

activities is also carried out by providing additional food to toddlers who are usually given in the form of soup, biscuits, and milk. The Padang Lua Nagari Government has issued a budget for PMT of IDR 7,500 per person for toddlers who come to the integrated healthcare center. The existing funds for PMT are given to integrated healthcare center cadres, and then the integrated healthcare center cadres are in charge of buying and making nutritious food that will be distributed later to toddlers who attend integrated healthcare centers.

However, the impact of the utilization of village funds on stunting prevention policies in Nagari Padang lua has not yet had an impact on the decline in stunting rates. This can be seen from the following problems:

First, the utilization of village funds in the socialization of stunting has not been optimal in planning and implementing the program. Socialization does not involve the target group that is the target of the policy. So far, the Government of Nagari Padang Lua has only invited integrated healthcare center cadres and community leaders to participate in the socialization of stunting, even though the community, especially families with pregnant women and children under five, should also listen directly to the socialization held and listen directly to material about good and correct nutrition for stunting prevention from experts. As a result, in the long term, it is difficult to determine the consequences or impact of the sustainability of the utilization of village funds in increasing community knowledge, especially families in preventing stunting (Dunn, 2017).

Then, the impact of the use of village funds in socialization activities has also not had an impact on the sustainability of the stunting prevention program. From the implementation aspect, socialization has an important role in increasing commitment, and expanding knowledge and ideas for stunting prevention policy implementers. However, this activity has not been manifested for cadres and community leaders who are considered relevant to the village government's efforts to prevent stunting. Many integrated healthcare center cadres and community leaders were late and did not even come to the socialization activities. Integrated healthcare center cadres and community leaders are considered unfocused in participating in this socialization activity, they seem to only come as a formality. So the use of village funds for stunting prevention through stunting socialization activities has not had an impact on stunting prevention in Nagari Padang Lua.

Second, the impact of the utilization of village funds in integrated healthcare center activities held, funds for facilities and infrastructure provided by the village government are still limited, and the measurement and weighing tools used are also still manual so that during integrated healthcare center activities carried out by integrated healthcare center cadres and village midwives, the level of participation of pregnant women and toddlers who come to the integrated healthcare center is very low. The low participation of pregnant women and toddlers is due to the very limited facilities and infrastructure of the integrated healthcare center and the expertise of the integrated healthcare center cadres in reading the results of height measurements and weighing which are not appropriate because they still use manual scales, this has led to distrust of pregnant women and parents of toddlers in integrated healthcare center activities.

Third, the impact of the use of village funds in PMT activities has also not had an impact on the sustainability of the stunting prevention program. The provision of additional food is often a problem, due to the low participation of toddlers who come to the integrated healthcare center, causing the provision of additional food not to be on target, the remaining PMT at the integrated healthcare center is taken by cadres home, so that the impact of using village funds in preventing stunting in Nagari Padang Lua cannot be seen.

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the findings and results of the research that has been carried out, it can be concluded that the impact of the use of village funds on stunting prevention policies in Nagari Padang Lua, Agam Regency has been implemented in the form of a stunting socialization program and integrated healthcare center services for pregnant women and toddlers and PMT. However, in its implementation, the program has not had a significant impact on stunting prevention in Nagari Padang Lua, because the socialization of stunting meetings held does not involve many parties, especially the targets of stunting prevention, namely pregnant women and parents of toddlers. Facilities and infrastructure in integrated healthcare center services are still very limited, and also the level of participation and awareness of pregnant women and parents of toddlers is still low, causing the provision of additional food (PMT) not to be on target. As a result, the targets and objectives of the use of village funds for stunting prevention policies are not as expected.

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