

ANALYZE THE MILITARY'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE HANDLING OF STUNTING IN PAPUA

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Abstract – Stunting, which indicates a discrepancy between a child's height and age, is a serious challenge in Indonesia, especially in Papua Province. Even though there is a decrease in the prevalence of stunting nationally, Papua has experienced a significant increase. This research aims to investigate the military's contribution to tackling stunting in Papua. This research uses a descriptive qualitative approach with in-depth interview methods and case studies. The case study focuses on an in-depth analysis of specific conditions in the Papua region. Involving relevant informant in Papua, data was collected through interviews. The research results show that ASTER and Kodam play a key role in planning and executing stunting reduction initiatives, leveraging technology for medical monitoring, and implementing devotional programs, including supplementary food distribution. Kesdam XVII/Cenderawasih contributes strategically through planning, health facilities provision, and collaboration with local governments. The TMMD program serves as a holistic approach to stunting eradication in challenging terrains. The study underscores the military's active participation, emphasizing cross-sector coordination, community service, and flexibility in overcoming challenges. Legal frameworks highlight the TNI's role in Military Operation Other Than War (MOOTW), aligning with efforts to reduce stunting. Socialization, education, food distribution, and the TMMD Program are integral to MOOTW, emphasizing the broader impact of stunting on public health and community welfare. Recommendations include to involve the role of the military in handling stunting, it is necessary to strengthen the capacity and authority of Kesdam XVII/Cenderawasih and ASTER in planning and implementing stunting handling programs. In addition, an active role of the TNI is needed for flexible and adaptive food distribution.

Keywords: Stunting; Contribution; Military; Papua

Introduction

Stunting has a serious impact on children's health and development. The long-term effects of stunting include the risk of developing degenerative diseases and impaired cognitive development (Rambes et al., 2023). Stunting also has an impact on children's low ability to learn, mental retardation, and the emergence of chronic diseases (Handayani, 2023). This means that

stunting affects not only children's physical growth but also cognitive development and children's potential to achieve optimal educational achievement.

Despite progress in reducing stunting prevalence, greater efforts are needed to address the issue. The government has set a target of reducing stunting prevalence to 14% by 2024 (Ministry of Health Republic of

Indonesia, 2023). However, while the majority of provinces in Indonesia experienced a decrease in stunting prevalence, Papua Province experienced a very high increase in stunting prevalence which in 2021 was 29.5% to 34.6%.

In the context of Papua, stunting is an urgent problem because the prevalence rate is very high in the region. One factor causing the high stunting rate in Papua is limited access to food and nutrition needs (Randani et al., 2022). It is important to overcome stunting in Papua because the long-term impact of stunting is the risk of developing degenerative diseases to impaired cognitive development so that it can have an impact on decreasing economic growth in the future (Aguilera Vasquez & Daher, 2019). This is because children who suffer from stunting will tend to have limited skills and abilities, so their productivity is economically low. This impact will have an impact on the economic growth of the region, as an unproductive labor force will hinder investment and development in Papua. The long-term health care costs that must be incurred are also a burden for the people and the Papuan health system as a whole (Akseer et al., 2022).

In the face of multiple defense challenges, having a healthy population is a crucial aspect that is often overlooked. A nutritionally fulfilled society will provide invaluable strategic benefits for Indonesia in carrying out defense efforts. Healthy and fit members of society will be more productive in various sectors of the economy, including industry, agriculture, and other sectors that play an important role in supporting the country's defense capabilities (McCartney et al., 2019). The presence of a healthy workforce will help reduce absenteeism and increase production efficiency (Palacios et al., 2020), which in turn will support ongoing defense efforts.

The selection of Papua as a research subject is underpinned by several compelling reasons, each rooted in the pursuit of addressing critical public health and nutritional challenges. Firstly, Papua faces an alarming prevalence of stunting, with a staggering 34.6% of its population affected, ranking it as the third highest among all provinces. Stunting, as a potent indicator of malnutrition and inadequate childhood growth, raises significant concerns due to its potential to inflict enduring cognitive and physical impairments.

Consequently, comprehending the underlying determinants responsible for this elevated stunting prevalence is indispensable for formulating targeted and effective interventions aimed at ameliorating the health outcomes of Papua's children.

Secondly, the contrasting trend in stunting prevalence between Papua and other provinces further underscores the urgency of research in this region. While numerous provinces have witnessed a reduction in stunting prevalence from 2021 to 2022, Papua has experienced a disconcerting increase in its stunting rates during the same period. This stark deviation prompts inquiries into the unique contextual factors that underlie Papua's situation, shedding light on the complex interplay of determinants affecting child health within this region. By dissecting these contributing factors, research endeavors can offer valuable insights into the multifaceted nature of public health challenges and potentially guide policy formulation tailored to Papua's specific needs. Therefore, tackling stunting in Papua is not only relevant for public health, but also has a strategic impact on the country's defense and sustainable development in the region.

Research Methodology

This research will use a descriptive qualitative analysis approach to gain an in-depth understanding of the analyze the military's contribution to the handling of stunting in Papua,

Research Design

The research design used was a case study. Case study research design is used to study a particular case or phenomenon in depth and detail. Case study research designs are usually used in qualitative research but only consider the possibility of being used in quantitative analysis. Case study research design does not have a standard pattern in its design format because the main research instrument is the researcher himself. Each person can have their own design model according to their taste. Case study research design departs from specific issues or phenomena that provide helpful knowledge to society. Case study research design is a research action plan in the form of a set of logically sequential activities that connect the research question to be answered and the research conclusion, which is the answer to the research problem (Fitrah, 2018).

Research Location and Time

The location of this research is in the Papua; the selected research sites include The Health of the Military Region (Kesdam) XVII/Cenderawasih and Territorial Assistant (Aster) XVII/Cenderawasih. This study was effectively conducted from April to December 2023.

Data Collection Techniques

In this study, data were collected: is Primary Data. Primary Data is data obtained directly from the data source. In this study, Primary Data was obtained by observing the three Research Subjects through in-depth interviews. The interview technique that researchers use is the Semi-structured Interview technique. The conduct of this interview is freer and aims to find problems more openly, where informants are asked for their opinions and ideas. The instrument used is an interview guideline. Interviewers use the interview guideline instrument to direct the course of the interview according to the research focus. The interview guideline instrument contains a list of questions or topics to be asked of respondents, which can be structural (closed) or unstructured (open).

Data Validity

The triangulation method will be used to check the validity of the data obtained. The data validation method is used because the primary data was obtained from interviews with existing sources.

Data Analysis

In this study, a narrative analysis technique has been employed for data analysis. Narrative analysis, as applied in qualitative research, encompasses data collection and analysis methodologies designed to comprehend and interpret stories or narratives derived from the collected data.

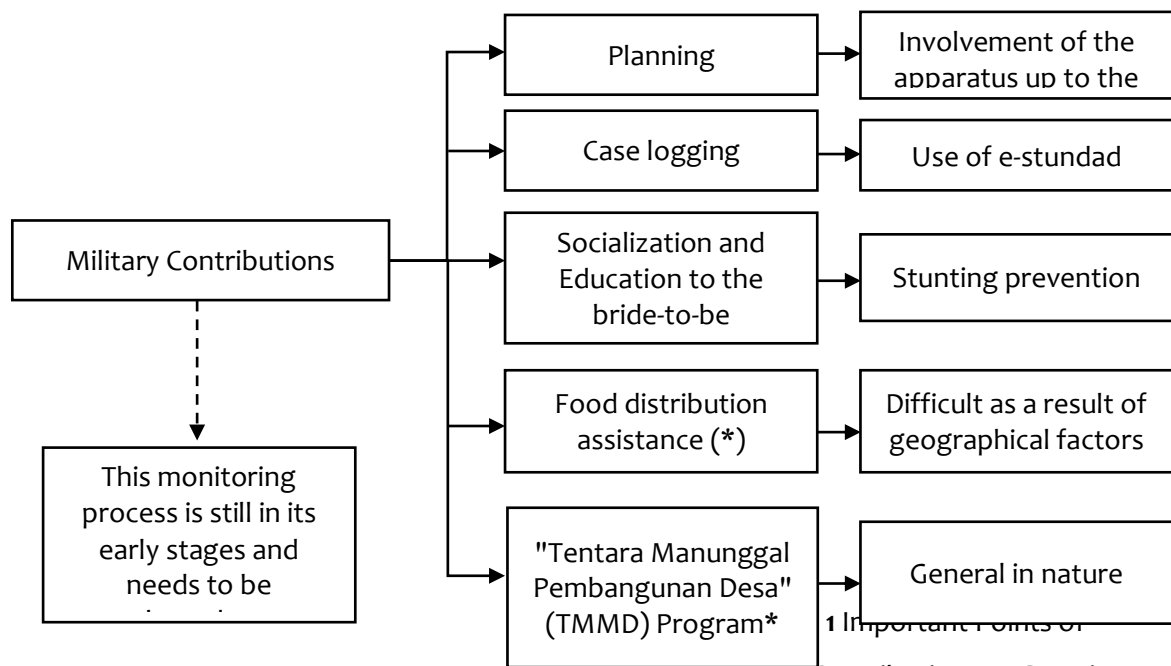
Result and Discussion

The results highlight the contribution of the military, especially Kesdam XVII/Cenderawasih and ASTER, in handling stunting in Papua. In the aspect of military health, ASTER and Kodam have a strategic role from planning to implementation. ASTER is involved in stunting reduction planning by involving officials up to the Babinsa level, while Kodam collaborates with BKKBN to improve family welfare. The use of technology such as Army e-stunting facilitates medical monitoring and intervention. The TNI's devotional and service operation programs, including the distribution of additional food aid,

are also a focus in efforts to reduce stunting.

The role of Regional Military Health (Kesdam) XVII/Cenderawasih involves strategic planning, health facilities in remote areas, support for stunting reduction programs, and TNI devotional operation programs. MoUs with local governments related to family planning programs and stunting reduction as well as meeting food and nutrition needs are also in focus. ASTER XVII/Cenderawasih is

active in collecting stunting cases, socialization, and education to the community, as well as food distribution in hard-to-reach areas. The TMMD program is a holistic platform to eradicate stunting and empower the community. Challenges related to natural conditions in mountainous areas are acknowledged, but the TNI shows readiness to respond with flexibility in distribution strategies.



1 Important Points of
Military Contribution to Stunting Handling in Papua

Source: Processed by the researcher (2024)

The results showed the active involvement of the TNI, especially Kesdam XVII/Cenderawasih and ASTER, in efforts to reduce stunting in Papua. Cross-sector coordination, community service operation programs, food distribution in hard-to-reach areas, and a holistic approach through TMMD programs are key factors in achieving this goal. Despite challenges related to natural conditions, the TNI's response to climate change and cooperation with local governments demonstrate readiness to overcome these obstacles.

Based on Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 34 of 2004 concerning the Indonesian National Army, Article 7 Paragraph 2, it is stated that the TNI has the task of Military Operation Other Than War (MOOTW). One of these operations is in the form of assisting local governments. Based on the Regulation of the Minister of Defense of the Republic of Indonesia Number 35 of 2011 concerning the Duty of Assistance of the Indonesian National Army to Regional Governments, there are important points that are further adjusted to the conditions or efforts to reduce stunting, namely:

- a. The involvement of TNI facilities, tools and capabilities in the task

of assistance to the government in Papua in the context of efforts to reduce stunting to improve the level of public health in hinterland, remote, isolated, and outermost small islands through the health sector, in line with the government's program to improve the welfare of the people, especially for the underprivileged, and in areas that are difficult to reach by health workers

- b. Coordination with local governments on public health programs in the regions, especially on efforts to reduce stunting
- c. TNI Bhakti and Bhakti Operation activity programs in the health sector, especially in efforts to reduce stunting

In the MOOTW, based on the principle must follow these 6 principles (Pub, 1995) that is:

Table 1. Principles of Military Operation Other Than War

Principles	Information
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Principles	Information
Objective	Direct every military operation toward a clearly defined, decisive, and attainable objective
Unity of Effort	Seek unity of effort in every operation
Security	Never permit hostile factions to acquire a military, political, or informational advantage
Restraint	Apply appropriate military capability prudently
Perseverance	Prepare for the measured, protracted application of military capability in support of strategic aims
Legitimacy	Committed forces must sustain the legitimacy of the operation and of the host government

Source: Pub (1995)

Application of MOOTW based on theory Builder & Karasik (1995), mentioning that MOOTW can be determined by location:

	Domestic	International
Routine	Flood control Executive transport Medical support Managing wetlands	Drug interdiction Military assistance Intelligence support Military Presence
Nonroutine	Disaster Assistance Civil Order	Humanitarian aid Peace operations Crisis response Enforcing sanctions Military intervention

Figure 2. MOOTW Activities by Location

Source: Builder & Karai (2024)

Socialization and education to brides-to-be, food distribution, and the "Tentara Manunggal Pembangunan Desa" (TMMD) Program to deal with stunting are part of Military Operation Other Than War (MOOTW). MOOTW is a military operation that does not involve war, combat, or the threat or use of force. MOOTW generally covers peacekeeping, peacebuilding, disaster response, humanitarian assistance, military engineering, law enforcement, arms control, prevention, and multilateralism. Socialization and education to brides-to-be aims to increase public knowledge and awareness about the importance of reproductive health and nutrition of pregnant women, as well as stunting prevention since the womb. This activity is included in the MOOTW because it deals with humanitarian assistance and peacebuilding. Food distribution assistance aims to help people who experience food difficulties due to natural disasters, conflict, or poverty. The "Tentara Manunggal Pembangunan Desa" (TMMD) program aims to improve the welfare of people in remote and isolated areas by building infrastructure, health facilities, and education, as well as

providing counseling on various social issues, including stunting.

Stunting in Papua exposes complex public health dynamics and challenges. Stunting is not only a health problem, but also reflects the challenges of development and community welfare. As a condition in which children experience physical growth and brain development that is not optimal due to malnutrition and chronic nutrition, stunting can affect the availability of human resources for the military. Some of the effects of stunting can reduce intellectual capacity, health, and productivity on the quality of human resources, especially for the fulfillment of military personnel. Therefore, it is important for the military to be active in reducing stunting in Indonesia, especially in stunting-prone areas such as Papua.

Conclusion, Recommendation, and Limitation

The adoption of the Tentara Manunggal Pembangunan Desa (TMMD) program demonstrates involvement in handling stunting but remains somewhat general in nature, primarily focused on data collection, outreach, food distribution, and TNI service operations. Nevertheless, geographical challenges, particularly in the interior of Papua,

demand flexibility in distribution and handling strategies.

To involve the role of the military in handling stunting, it is necessary to strengthen the capacity and authority of Kesdam XVII/Cenderawasih and ASTER in planning and implementing stunting handling programs. In addition, an active role of the TNI is needed for flexible and adaptive food distribution

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