

EVALUATION OF THE STUNTING PROGRAM BUDGET PERFORMANCE AT THE SURABAYA CITY HEALTH DEPARTMENT IN 2025

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ABSTRACT

Stunting is a long-term malnutrition problem that affects the quality of human resources and is a development priority. The government uses the Special Allocation Fund (DAK) for the health sector to accelerate stunting reduction. This study aims to analyze the budget performance of the stunting program at the Surabaya City Health Office in 2025, evaluate the effectiveness of DAK use, and identify supporting and inhibiting factors. The method used was a descriptive qualitative approach with a Systematic Literature Review (SLR) and document analysis of scientific literature from 2019–2025 and official local government documents. The results indicate that the budget performance of the stunting program is quite effective and aligned with planning documents. The use of DAK supports nutrition interventions through community health center (Puskesmas) and integrated health post (Posyandu) services. However, effectiveness is less than optimal due to data inconsistencies between institutions, a lack of results-based performance indicators, and a suboptimal monitoring and evaluation system. Therefore, strengthening results-based evaluation, data integration, and improved cross-sectoral coordination are needed to ensure a more significant and sustainable program impact.

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INTRODUCTION

Stunting is a long-term nutritional problem caused by insufficient nutritional intake over a prolonged period, particularly during the first 1,000 days of life. This condition not only affects a child's physical growth but also impacts cognitive development, productivity, and the quality of human resources in the future. Therefore, addressing stunting is a key focus of development at the national and regional levels. The central and regional governments have established special budgets to accelerate stunting reduction through various budgeting schemes, one of which is the Special Allocation Fund (DAK) in the health sector. DAK is a

financial instrument aimed at supporting the financing of special activities that are national priorities in the regions. In the context of stunting reduction, the DAK budget is expected to support appropriate and effective interventions, both specific and sensitive.

Surabaya, one of Indonesia's largest cities, has demonstrated a significant decline in stunting rates in recent years. Through the Surabaya City Health Office, the local government has implemented various programs to accelerate stunting reduction, linking it with community health centers (PUSKESMAS), integrated health service posts (Posyandu), and other related sectors. This success is due to adequate budget support and well-planned program management.

However, program success is not only measured by the reduction in case numbers, but also by the extent to which funds are used effectively, appropriately, and yield positive results. Therefore, it is necessary to examine the results of the use of funds for the stunting prevention program in the Surabaya City Health Office in 2025, based on a *Systematic Literature Review* (SLR) approach and document analysis. Although numerous studies have discussed stunting reduction programs, most studies focus more on program implementation and achievement of results, rather than on detailed budget performance evaluations. Studies on the effectiveness of the Special Allocation Fund (DAK) to support stunting programs at the regional scale, especially in 2025, are still quite limited.

Furthermore, implementation still faces challenges such as discrepancies in stunting data across agencies, limited performance indicators focused on budget outcomes, and a suboptimal performance-based monitoring and evaluation system. This situation indicates a gap between budget planning and the evaluation of the program's actual impact on stunting reduction. Therefore, this research is essential to address the gap in studies on budget performance assessment of the stunting program, particularly at the Surabaya City Health Office in 2025.

RESEARCH METHODS

This study uses a qualitative descriptive approach that includes the *Systematic Literature Review* (SLR) method and document analysis. The qualitative approach was chosen because the main objective of this study is to understand in-depth the budget performance in the stunting prevention program, particularly related to the utilization of the Special Allocation Fund (DAK) in the Surabaya City Health Office in 2025. This method focuses more on understanding data and interpreting policies, planning, and budget implementation of the stunting program, rather than simply measuring numbers.

A *Systematic Literature Review* (SLR) was conducted to identify, review, and synthesize research findings and publications related to stunting, budget performance evaluation, Special Allocation Funds (DAK) in the health sector, and regional health policies. The literature search was conducted through credible academic sources such as *Google Scholar*, accredited national journals, international journals, and official government publications. The selected literature was limited to the period 2019 to 2025 to ensure relevance to the current policy context. The selected literature was then screened based on the suitability of the title, abstract, and content to the study focus, and then analyzed to identify patterns, evaluation approaches, and research limitations related to the assessment of stunting program budget performance.

In addition to using SLR, this study also employed document analysis as the primary data source. The document analysis included various official documents related to the planning and budget implementation of the stunting prevention program in Surabaya City, such as the Regional Budget (APBD), Special Allocation Fund (DAK) documents in the health sector, the strategic plan and work plan of the Surabaya City Health Office, performance reports, and regulations and policies supporting stunting reduction. These documents were analyzed to provide an understanding of the alignment between budget planning, fund realization, and stunting program achievements.

Data collection in this study was conducted through literature review and documentation study. Literature review was used to gather theoretical data and concepts from scientific sources, while documentation study was used to obtain empirical data from official government documents. After data collection, analysis was conducted using descriptive qualitative analysis techniques, including data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing. This analysis process compared the findings from the SLR and document analysis to assess the effectiveness of DAK utilization and the budget performance of the stunting prevention program.

The validity of the data in this study was ensured through source triangulation, which was conducted by comparing information obtained from scientific literature and official government documents. Furthermore, data reliability was also strengthened through the selection of credible and relevant sources and the systematic and transparent implementation of the SLR stages, with the hope that the results of this study will have a high level of validity and accountability.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Evaluation of the Special Allocation Fund (DAK) Budget for Stunting Children at the Surabaya City Health Office

According to the results of a Systematic Literature Review (SLR) and an analysis of the 2025 budget planning and implementation documents, the Special Allocation Fund (DAK) for the health sector at the Surabaya City Health Office is intended to accelerate the reduction of stunting cases through specific and sensitive nutrition interventions. This budget allocation focuses on programs to improve the nutritional status of mothers and children, health services for pregnant women and toddlers, and strengthening community health center (Puskesmas) and integrated health post (Posyandu) facilities.

The evaluation revealed that the realization of the Special Allocation Fund (DAK) budget was generally in accordance with existing planning documents, both the Regional Government Work Plan (RKPD) and the Budget Implementation Document (DPA). DAK-funded programs play a role in increasing the coverage of health services for toddlers and pregnant women, such as supplementary feeding, growth monitoring, and nutrition education. However, budget effectiveness remains suboptimal due to a discrepancy between the allocated budget and the significant reduction in stunting prevalence. This finding aligns with a literature review showing that success in addressing stunting depends not only on the amount of funds

allocated, but also on the quality of planning, accuracy in targeting, and intersectoral coordination during program implementation.

Supporting and Inhibiting Factors in the Evaluation of the Special Allocation Fund (DAK) Budget

Supporting Factors

One of the key supporting factors in the evaluation and implementation of the Special Allocation Fund (DAK) budget for the stunting program in Surabaya City is the strong commitment of the local government to stunting reduction. This is evident in consistent budgeting, policy support, and the integration of the stunting program into regional development plans. Furthermore, the availability of sufficient human resources in the health sector, such as nutritionists, midwives, and integrated health post (Posyandu) cadres, is also a crucial element in supporting the program. Improvements in the health information system also facilitate budget monitoring and evaluation, allowing for more regular and transparent reporting and oversight of DAK use.

Inhibiting Factors

However, several inhibiting factors affect the effectiveness of the DAK budget evaluation. One major obstacle is the lack of data synchronization between the central and regional governments, particularly regarding data on stunting targets. This data disparity impacts the accuracy of budget planning and allocation. Furthermore, poor coordination between sectors, both among government agencies and with the private sector, poses a challenge to program implementation. Administrative factors such as delays in fund disbursement and complex reporting mechanisms also hamper the smooth implementation of the stunting program at the health service level.

Efforts to Overcome Inhibiting Factors in the Evaluation of the Special Allocation Fund (DAK) Budget for Stunting Children

Efforts to address the challenges in assessing the Special Allocation Fund (DAK) budget for stunting programs must be comprehensive and ongoing. One strategic approach that can be implemented is strengthening the planning and budgeting system based on integrated data, so that stunting program targets are more precise and aligned with the conditions on the ground. Furthermore, increased intersectoral collaboration through collaborative forums between regional agencies, community health centers, and communities must be strengthened to ensure integration between specific and sensitive nutrition programs. Simplifying administrative processes and fund reporting is also crucial for more efficient and timely program implementation.

With improvements in planning, coordination, and supervision, it is hoped that the performance of the DAK budget in the stunting program in Surabaya City can be more optimal and have a real impact on reducing stunting rates in a sustainable manner.

CONCLUSION

Based on research conducted through a Systematic Literature Review (SLR) and document analysis, it can be concluded that the budget performance for the stunting program at the Surabaya City Health Office in 2025 has proven effective in accelerating stunting reduction efforts. The use of the Special Allocation Fund (DAK) in the health sector is intended to support specific and sensitive interventions linked to community health center (Puskesmas) services, integrated health service posts (Posyandu), and intersectoral collaboration.

The effectiveness of budget utilization is evident in the alignment between program plans and field implementation. Furthermore, collaboration between various agencies and local policy support are key factors in maximizing budget utilization. However, several challenges remain, such as data inconsistencies between agencies, limited results-based performance indicators, and a performance-based budget monitoring and evaluation system that is not yet fully operational.

Therefore, the performance assessment of the stunting program budget should not only reflect the amount of budget realization, but also its significant impact on reducing stunting prevalence. Therefore, an improved evaluation system focused on results, strengthened data integration, and consistent oversight are needed to ensure more accountable and sustainable budget management.

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