



Strengthening Legal Protection of Children's Right to Supplementary Food as a Strategic Effort for Stunting Prevention

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Abstract: Stunting prevention is a priority in improving children's health quality in Indonesia. Stunting, caused by malnutrition, impacts both the physical and mental development of children, potentially diminishing their quality of life. As a country that has ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Indonesia is obligated to ensure that every child has the right to a healthy life, including access to adequate nutrition. This study aims to analyze the strategic efforts undertaken by the Indonesian government to prevent stunting. The research employs a qualitative method with a case study approach and descriptive analysis. Data are obtained through a literature review of relevant sources. This approach is used to describe and analyze the policies implemented by the Indonesian government to address stunting. The findings indicate that although regulations exist to support children's rights to nutritious food, their implementation faces various challenges, such as weak coordination between agencies and insufficient adherence to established standards. More robust law enforcement and enhanced legal capacity at the local level are crucial to ensuring the success of these policies. In conclusion, strengthening legal protection through stricter regulations and more effective monitoring will create an environment conducive to children's growth and development, thereby preventing stunting on a broader scale. This study recommends further collaboration among institutions and raising public awareness about the importance of nutritious food for children.

Keywords: Children's Rights, Stunting, Supplementary Food, Legal Protection, Policy

1. Introduction

Children are a divine gift with rights and protection that must be fulfilled. As the nation's future generation, children play a crucial role in continuing the struggle to build a better future for the country. Children's rights are guaranteed by the Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia (1945) and reinforced by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (Mubarok, 2022). From the moment of conception, every human being possesses inalienable rights that must be respected throughout their life. All rights granted by God to individuals must be respected and protected by everyone without any infringement. The protection of children, as stipulated in the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), aims to ensure that children fully receive their rights. Overall, the protection of children's rights is part of the broader protection of human dignity (Failin et al., 2022), which, in turn, safeguards the future generations of the nation (Mubarok, 2022).

Legal protection of children's rights in the field of health, particularly in the prevention of stunting, is essential for achieving sustainable health development goals (Rahmadhita, 2020; Sukawati, 2022). Stunting is a nutritional issue that affects children due to long-term malnutrition, impacting both their physical and cognitive growth (Atamou et al., 2023). Recent data from Riskesdas 2023 shows that the prevalence of stunting in Indonesia is 21.6% (*Prevalensi Stunting Di Indonesia Turun Ke 21,6% Dari 24,4%*, 2023), a figure that highlights the magnitude of the challenges faced in addressing this issue.

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The prevention of stunting requires a comprehensive approach, one of which involves providing supplementary food that meets the nutritional needs of children (Nuradhiani, 2022; Shauma & Purbaningrum, 2022). Stunting, as a growth disorder that can have long-term consequences on a child's quality of life, can be prevented by ensuring that children receive adequate nutrition, especially during critical stages of their development (Sholikhah & Dewi, 2022; Swarinastiti et al., 2018). The provision of quality supplementary food plays an essential role in meeting children's basic nutritional needs, supporting physical growth, and promoting optimal cognitive development (Safirah, 2023). Supplementary food that does not meet nutritional standards may exacerbate the situation, leading to more severe growth disorders, which affects the child's future and the nation's overall well-being (Ahmad et al., 2023; Irawan et al., 2023).

It is crucial to strengthen legal protections that guarantee children's right to access adequate supplementary food (Ariany & Fitriatun, 2022; Suharso, 2023). This right is part of children's right to health, as protected by law, as outlined in Law No. 17 of 2023 on Health. Article 65 of this law regulates efforts to fulfill nutritional needs throughout the human life cycle, from conception to old age. The focus of this effort is on groups with specific nutritional needs, including pregnant and lactating women, infants and toddlers, and adolescent girls. This article emphasizes the importance of nutritional fulfillment during critical stages of life to prevent long-term health issues, including stunting (Milah, 2022).

Providing quality supplementary food plays a vital role in preventing stunting. It must be ensured through effective policies and legal protections that uphold children's rights to health and adequate nutrition, fostering optimal growth and contributing to developing high-quality human resources. Quality supplementary food, designed to improve the nutritional intake of individuals, especially those at risk of malnutrition, contains essential nutrients such as vitamins, minerals, protein, and energy to address specific deficiencies. Typically targeted at vulnerable groups, including infants, children, pregnant women, the elderly, and individuals with medical conditions affecting nutrition absorption, its quality is determined by nutrient content, safety, and sustainable production methods. Effective implementation and equitable distribution of these foods are critical, as evidenced by stunting cases in regions like Bima Regency, where inadequate distribution and failure to meet nutritional standards hinder child growth and expose gaps between policy and practice.

Stunting cases in several regions of Indonesia highlight the importance of proper distribution and supervision of supplementary food to prevent this condition (Rosida et al., 2023). In Bima Regency, for example, the high rate of stunting is mainly due to unequal distribution of supplementary food, which does not reach all the areas in need (Nurbaety & Musmuliadin, 2020). Furthermore, the supplementary food distributed often fails to meet the necessary nutritional standards to support optimal child growth. This situation reveals a gap between existing policies and their implementation on the ground.

A similar situation has been found in Sikka Regency, East Nusa Tenggara, where the supervision of the quality of supplementary food provided to children at risk of stunting remains weak (Asiah et al., 2019). In this area, issues with supervision have led to low compliance with nutritional standards for supplementary food, which could worsen the stunting condition. Similar issues have been recorded in other regions, such as East Lombok and Tulungagung Regencies, where misdirected distribution and poor food quality have worsened the prevalence of stunting (Wididiati et al., 2022).

Data from the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Indonesia indicates that the prevalence of stunting in Indonesia remains relatively high, with some regions such as East Nusa Tenggara, Papua, and West Kalimantan reporting stunting rates exceeding 30% (Nurlaela Sari et al., 2023). This highlights that challenges in the distribution and monitoring of quality supplementary food continue to be a significant issue in the effort to prevent stunting in Indonesia. The importance of strengthening legal protections for

children's right to supplementary food becomes even more apparent when considering the irregularities in the implementation of stunting prevention programs. Although the government has initiated various programs, discrepancies between policies and field practices, particularly regarding the distribution and quality of supplementary food, are common. This calls for more precise and stricter regulations to ensure that children's rights are maximally protected (Fadlyansyah, 2020).

Law Number 17 of 2023 regulates health system reforms that support the National Strategy for Stunting Reduction (Stranas Stunting), contributing to the reduction of the national stunting rate from 30.8% in 2018 to 21.6% in 2023. Simultaneously, Law Number 35 of 2014 strengthens the legal protection of children's rights, including access to adequate nutrition through improved health services like Posyandu. This law, along with the 2024 Indonesian Nutrition Status Survey (SSGI), enhances stunting prevention by emphasizing the shared responsibility of the state, society, and families to meet children's nutritional needs. The SSGI aims to accelerate stunting reduction by providing more accurate data on nutritional status, enabling the formulation of targeted policies. Together, these laws and initiatives complement the government's efforts to address stunting and ensure a more comprehensive approach to child health and nutrition in Indonesia. (BKPK, 2024).

Based on the above, the formulation of the research problem focuses on the legal gaps in the implementation of the protection of children's rights to quality and safe supplementary food as part of the stunting prevention efforts. Additionally, the legal challenges faced in the implementation of policies for the provision of supplementary food to children need to be comprehensively analyzed, with the identification of legal solutions that can be implemented to overcome these barriers. This research is expected to make a significant contribution to improving policies and strengthening legal protections for children's rights in Indonesia, particularly in the strategic effort to prevent stunting.

2. Materials and Methods

This study employed a qualitative and case study approach to analyze the legal protection of children's rights in stunting prevention by providing quality and safe supplementary food. The case study approach explored this issue within its practical and contextual framework in Indonesia (Muslim et al., 2023). Data collection for this study involved in-depth interviews with various stakeholders, including healthcare professionals, government officials, and parents of children affected by stunting, to gain diverse perspectives on stunting prevention programs, supplementary food provision, and related challenges. Alongside these interviews, the analysis of relevant policies, regulations, and government reports provided critical contextual support. The documents reviewed included Law Number 17 of 2023, which regulates health system reforms aligned with the National Strategy for Stunting Reduction (Stranas Stunting), and Law Number 35 of 2014, which addresses children's nutritional rights. Together, these data sources helped form a comprehensive understanding of Indonesia's stunting prevention efforts.

The collected data were analyzed thematically to identify recurring patterns, key themes, and critical issues, such as obstacles faced by stakeholders, implementation gaps, and potential solutions to improve the effectiveness of stunting prevention programs. This method facilitated systematically categorizing qualitative data into actionable insights and recommendations. By combining findings from stakeholder interviews and document analysis, this research offers a comprehensive perspective on the legal and policy dimensions of stunting prevention in Indonesia. It highlights areas for improvement and potential strategies to protect children's rights to adequate nutrition.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1. Disparities between Policy and Implementation of Children's Rights Protection

Indonesia, as one of the countries that has ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), must respect, protect, and fulfill children's rights, including the right to health, which encompasses the provision of adequate nutrition (Apriyanita, 2017).

Stunting, a condition of chronic malnutrition, can affect children's growth and development and diminish their quality of life. Therefore, efforts to prevent stunting should be a priority in the implementation of children's rights in Indonesia.

Article 6, paragraph (1) of the CRC states that every child has an inherent right to life. This right to life includes access to basic needs for survival, including adequate nutritious food. When a child does not receive sufficient nutrition, they are at risk of experiencing stunting, which can damage their physical and mental development potential. In this context, the state, as a party that has ratified the CRC, is responsible for ensuring that every child enjoys the right to a healthy life, free from malnutrition that leads to stunting.

Article 27, paragraph (1) of the CRC recognizes the right of every child to an adequate standard of living for physical, mental, spiritual, moral, and social development. Adequate nutritional needs are a critical factor in supporting children's physical development. Stunting can hinder a child's physical and mental growth, which in turn affects their quality of life. Therefore, the state must take adequate measures to address the issue of stunting as part of efforts to fulfill the right of children to an adequate standard of living.

Disparities between policy and implementation in the protection of children's rights regarding supplementary food for stunting prevention can be observed in various factors. Although regulations governing the fulfillment of children's nutrition have been established under Law No. 17 of 2023 on Health, its implementation in the field still faces challenges. Oversight of the distribution and quality of supplementary food that meets the balanced nutrition standards, as stipulated in Article 64, paragraph (2) letter a, which states that supplementary food must be nutritionally balanced, has not been fully implemented effectively. The discrepancy between national policies and their implementation at the regional level shows that these policies have not fully reached all segments of society, particularly in areas with high stunting rates.

Another factor exacerbating this issue is the suboptimal coordination between related agencies. The fulfillment of balanced nutrition, as mentioned in Article 64, requires close cooperation between the central and regional governments and the private sector. However, in many regions, ineffective coordination has led to uneven distribution of supplementary food, and its quality does not always meet the nutritional needs of children. This directly impacts stunting prevention efforts, which should be a government priority in protecting children's rights to adequate nutrition.

Moreover, weak supervision plays a role in the occurrence of these disparities. Insufficient supervision over the distribution and quality of supplementary food has led to deviations in meeting children's nutritional needs. Law No. 17 of 2023 emphasizes the importance of providing sound and timely nutrition, but the lack of adequate oversight in the field means that these policies are not always achieved. This gap opens the door for violations of the quality standards of supplementary food that should be in line with established guidelines.

The need to strengthen legal protection for children's rights to receive supplementary food that meets balanced nutritional needs is becoming increasingly urgent (Gustini et al., 2023). This is in line with the provisions of Article 65, paragraph (2) of Law No. 17 of 2023, which gives special attention to pregnant women, infants, toddlers, and adolescent girls. A more targeted policy implementation and stricter supervision are necessary to ensure that children's right to balanced nutrition can be adequately fulfilled. Additionally, providing supplementary food that meets not only quantity standards but also quality standards is an aspect that must not be overlooked.

Presidential Regulation (Perpres) No. 72 of 2021 on Accelerating the Reduction of Stunting, Article 2, paragraph (2), highlights the government's commitment to undertaking various efforts to reduce the stunting rate in Indonesia, focusing on improving stunting prevalence, fulfilling nutrition needs, and enhancing health services. This article emphasizes the importance of synergy between government programs and health services in addressing the stunting issue, which remains a significant challenge in In-

Indonesia. One strategic step taken is through the dissemination and distribution of nutritious food to pregnant women and children, aimed at reducing the risk of stunting from the early stages of life.

Strong legal protection for the fulfillment of children's rights to supplementary food is crucial in addressing the disparity between existing policies and their implementation. Strengthening the oversight system involving various parties, including independent institutions, and improving coordination between the agencies involved can reduce the existing gap. If these steps are correctly taken, stunting prevention efforts can be more effective and ensure that every child in Indonesia receives their right to balanced, nutritious supplementary food as part of the protection of their fundamental rights.

Table 1. Analysis of Strategic Policies for Stunting Prevention

Aspect	Established Policy	Implementation on the Ground	Challenges Faced
Balanced Nutrition Fulfillment	Article 64 Paragraph (2) Subparagraph (a): Supplementary food must be balanced according to the needs of children to prevent the risk of both overnutrition and malnutrition.	The provision of supplementary food in some regions still does not meet the balanced nutrition standards.	Disparity between central policies and ground conditions, varying quality of supplementary food, and lack of understanding regarding children's nutritional needs in regions.
Coordination Between Agencies	Policies regarding coordination between central and regional government agencies for balanced nutrition fulfillment across the entire life cycle.	Coordination between agencies often fails to run effectively, affecting the equitable distribution of supplementary food.	Lack of synergy between central and regional governments in implementing policies, as well as disagreements regarding budget allocation and resource priorities.
Quality Monitoring	Monitoring and supervision of the quality of supplementary food to ensure compliance with balanced nutrition standards.	Weak supervision, with no effective evaluation of the quality of supplementary food provided.	Limited resources for supervision, weak law enforcement regarding violations of food quality, and lack of supervisory personnel in areas prone to stunting.
Public Awareness and Socialization	Policies to raise public awareness about the importance of balanced nutrition fulfillment, especially for pregnant women and children.	Socialization is limited, leading to many people still lacking an understanding of the importance of balanced nutrition.	Limited access and resources to conduct comprehensive socialization, particularly in rural and remote areas.
Law	Strengthening legal	Lack of strict law enforcement	The absence of firm

Aspect	Established Policy	Implementation on the Ground	Challenges Faced
Enforcement Against Violations	protection against violations related to the provision of supplementary food that does not meet the standards.	against violations related to the quality of supplementary food.	sanctions and weak reporting mechanisms and legal follow-up processes.

3.2. Challenges in Inter-Institutional Coordination

Inter-institutional coordination is one of the main challenges in strengthening legal protection for children's rights to supplementary food as a strategic effort to prevent stunting. In Indonesia, despite the existence of various regulations governing children's nutritional needs, implementation on the ground is often hindered by a lack of cooperation between relevant ministries, local governments, and the private sector. Article 27 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child states that every child has the right to adequate food, which includes both the quality and quantity of food that can support optimal growth and development. Achieving this goal requires the participation of various parties who must coordinate the distribution and monitoring of supplementary food that meets balanced nutrition standards.

However, in practice, there are significant obstacles caused by disharmony among the institutions that should be involved in fulfilling these children's rights. Despite the presence of clear policies, such as those in Law No. 17 of 2023 on Health, which mandates the provision of balanced nutrition for children, the supervision of supplementary food distribution is often impeded by fragmented policies between various agencies. This results in irregularities in fulfilling children's nutritional needs across different regions, ultimately increasing the potential for stunting. Therefore, strengthening coordination among the institutions responsible for health, education, and child protection is key to addressing this issue.

Coordination among agencies is a crucial element in enhancing the protection of children's rights, particularly regarding the fulfillment of the right to balanced and nutritious supplementary food. Article 28 H, Paragraph (1) of the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia guarantees every individual's right to adequate healthcare services, including the provision of proper nutrition. The success of stunting prevention efforts heavily depends on close collaboration between various government agencies, such as the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education, and local governments. Without effective coordination, the distribution of supplementary food that meets nutritional standards and can be accessed by children from diverse backgrounds is hindered. Failure to harmonize roles and responsibilities among agencies risks undermining the effectiveness of efforts to protect children's right to sufficient and safe nutrition, thus adding challenges to preventing stunting.

One factor exacerbating this coordination challenge is the difference in perspectives and priorities among the involved institutions. For example, the Ministry of Health focuses more on medical and nutritional aspects, while the Ministry of Education tends to focus on logistical aspects and food distribution to schools. These differing approaches lead to overlapping responsibilities, resulting in unclear implementation of policies aimed at preventing stunting. To address this, a more structured and integrated coordination mechanism is needed among various institutions to ensure the adequate provision of quality supplementary food.

Strengthening inter-institutional coordination will not only improve the effectiveness of distributing balanced and nutritious supplementary food but will also accelerate the reduction of stunting rates in Indonesia (Riyanto et al., 2022). This effort will support the protection of children's rights as guaranteed by both national and international regulations. In this context, effective coordination between the central and local governments, as well as with private sector and community stakeholders, will create an environment conducive to fulfilling children's right to adequate food. This is also in line

with the principle in Article 27 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which emphasizes that the state must ensure the fulfillment of children's right to sufficient and nutritious food. With strong synergy among various parties, legal protection for children's rights to supplementary food can be more optimally realized, thus allowing stunting prevention to proceed effectively.

3.3. Strengthening Community Roles in Implementing Supplementary Food Policies for Stunting Prevention

Community participation is a crucial element in the success of supplementary food policies aimed at preventing stunting in Indonesia (Listiani et al., 2023). Community involvement is not limited to receiving benefits but also includes active contributions to program implementation, such as activities at integrated health service posts (posyandu), monitoring the distribution of supplementary food, and nutrition education. This aligns with the provisions of Article 27 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which emphasizes the child's right to adequate food and nutrition for optimal growth and development. Therefore, the community plays a strategic role in ensuring the fulfillment of this right, particularly by strengthening supervision and implementation through community groups such as the PKK (Family Welfare Empowerment) and health cadres at the village level.

However, low community awareness about the importance of balanced nutrition remains one of the significant challenges in preventing stunting (Hayati et al., 2023). Although the government has provided supplementary food through various programs, such as food assistance and posyandu activities, the community's understanding of balanced nutrition is often limited. Cultural factors, eating habits, and limited access to information pose significant obstacles. Thus, community-based educational efforts are needed, involving community leaders, religious leaders, and local leaders, using approaches tailored to local wisdom. Nutrition education programs that align with local culture are more effective in raising awareness about the importance of nutritious food in preventing stunting.

On the other hand, the effectiveness of supplementary food policies is also hindered by weak distribution supervision at the local level. Without active community involvement, the distribution of supplementary food may become uneven or fail to meet standards. Therefore, community empowerment in monitoring and evaluating the distribution process is essential. Community groups can be engaged in forums or village meetings to evaluate program implementation, ensuring that they are not only recipients of benefits but also supervisors contributing to the sustainability of the stunting prevention program.

Community-based innovation is also necessary to strengthen the implementation of supplementary food policies. Programs like "Nutrition Gardens," which involve communities in growing and utilizing local food sources, can reduce dependence on supplementary food assistance while empowering the local economy. Additionally, establishing nutrition discussion groups involving mothers to share experiences about providing nutritious food to children can raise awareness and foster communities that are more responsive to stunting issues.

Strengthening community capacity through training and empowerment is key to the success of stunting prevention programs. Training health cadres in rural areas to recognize stunting symptoms, provide nutrition education, and distribute supplementary food appropriately can enhance program efficiency and effectiveness. Moreover, involving communities in program planning and budgeting is also crucial to ensure that local needs are well addressed. For example, the community can be involved in identifying children at risk of stunting, ensuring that assistance is more targeted.

The sustainability of supplementary food programs depends heavily on the community's commitment to supporting these policies. Increasing the sense of ownership over the program can be achieved through a participatory approach that involves the

community in every stage, from planning to evaluation. Additionally, incentives for active community groups, such as health cadres or posyandu volunteers, can increase their motivation and involvement. Collaboration between the community, government, and the private sector must be strengthened so that all parties can play an active role in stunting prevention efforts.

Increased collaboration between the private sector and the community is also an important factor in accelerating the reduction of stunting rates. The private sector can be involved in corporate social responsibility (CSR) programs focused on providing nutritious supplementary food or developing nutrition gardens at the community level. For example, food companies can play a role in supplying quality food at affordable prices, while the community is responsible for distribution and consumption. Strong partnerships between the government and the private sector will create a sustainable ecosystem to support stunting prevention.

Moreover, a family-based strategy should be prioritized in efforts to reduce stunting. The family, as the smallest unit of society, plays a primary role in ensuring children's nutritional needs are met. The government can strengthen home visit programs by health cadres to provide direct education on how to prepare nutritious meals with locally available ingredients. This approach is especially relevant in remote areas, which often have limited access to information and food supplies. Involving fathers in these programs is also important to strengthen family commitment, as decision-making within the family involves both parents.

The national policy framework has also provided a strong foundation for accelerating stunting reduction. Presidential Regulation No. 72 of 2021 on the Acceleration of Stunting Reduction sets a target to reduce the prevalence of stunting to 14% by 2024. However, its implementation faces various challenges, such as limited human resources and budgets at the local level. Strengthening the capacity of local implementers is crucial to achieving this target. Furthermore, the integration of national and local policies is essential to ensure optimal implementation throughout Indonesia.

Table 2. Factors in Preventing Stunting in Indonesia

Aspect	Description
Role of the Community	Active community involvement in monitoring the distribution of supplementary food, nutrition education, and implementing programs such as posyandu (integrated health posts).
Education and Awareness	The government needs to strengthen community-based education by involving community leaders, religious figures, and local leaders. Nutrition education tailored to local wisdom can enhance understanding of the importance of balanced nutrition.
Program Monitoring	Communities can be empowered to monitor the distribution of supplementary food, check its quality, and periodically evaluate the program through discussion forums or village meetings.
Community-Based Innovation	Programs like "Kebun Gizi" (Nutrition Gardens) to cultivate local food crops and empower the local economy. Nutrition discussion groups can also raise awareness of the importance of providing nutritious food to children.
Empowerment of Health Cadres	Training of village health cadres to recognize the symptoms of stunting, provide nutrition education, and distribute supplementary food appropriately.
Role of Government and Private	Collaboration among the government, communities, and private sector

Aspect	Description
Sector	through CSR programs to provide nutritious food and empower communities in distribution management
Family-Based Strategies	Home visits by health cadres to provide direct education to families, involving fathers to strengthen the family’s commitment to preventing stunting.
National and Local Policies	Strong coordination between the central and local governments, along with transparent budget allocation, to ensure effective and equitable implementation of the program at the local level.

Overall, the reduction of stunting prevalence in Indonesia can be achieved through a holistic approach that involves the community, government, and private sector. By enhancing the capacity of the community, optimizing cross-sector collaboration, and adopting technology and family-based strategies, stunting prevention programs can be implemented more effectively and sustainably. This will not only create long-term impacts in preventing stunting but also ensure children's right to adequate nutrition, as mandated by relevant legal provisions.

Legal protection in the context of children's rights to nutritious food also encompasses the oversight of policies and programs involving the provision of supplementary food. In this regard, the role of relevant state institutions, such as the Food and Drug Supervisory Agency (BPOM) and the Ministry of Health, becomes critical in ensuring that food products distributed to children meet established standards. Law No. 18 of 2012 on Food and Law No. 17 of 2023 on Health provide the legal foundation for the government to establish policies that regulate not only food production and distribution but also address preventive measures concerning diseases arising from nutritional imbalances in children. These government programs, based on a strict monitoring system, aim to ensure equitable access to safe and nutritious food for all children in Indonesia, both in urban and rural areas.

Through a legal campaign integrated with public education, it is essential to build collective awareness about the long-term effects of malnutrition in children, which can lead to stunting and other developmental disorders. This effort should be complemented by adequate legal assistance for families facing difficulties in meeting their children's nutritional needs. Legal protection should not be limited to imposing sanctions but also involve rehabilitative approaches, such as providing access to nutritious food for low-income families through food subsidies or direct assistance. Such legal initiatives are expected to create an environment that supports optimal child development and contributes to achieving sustainable health development goals.

4. Conclusions

Strengthening legal protection for children's right to supplementary food is crucial in stunting prevention efforts. It is vital to implement more effective monitoring and enforcement at the local level to address the challenges of weak coordination between agencies and insufficient adherence to standards. Local authorities often face resource constraints and lack adequate capacity to enforce policies consistently. These challenges can be overcome by enhancing training, increasing collaboration across sectors, and allocating resources to local agencies. Additionally, leveraging data from studies like this can guide policymakers in designing more effective, context-specific regulations. The results of this study provide insights into the practical barriers and gaps in the current framework, offering a basis for developing more targeted and comprehensive policies. By improving coordination and legal enforcement, these policies can more effectively address the nutritional needs of children, ensuring they receive adequate food and sup-

port. This will foster a more supportive environment for child development and significantly reduce stunting.

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