

# IMPACT OF THE SIMBA KUAT PROGRAM (RAMBA SYNERGY IN THE FIELD OF SUPPORTING CLEAN AND HEALTHY LEISURE) ON HANDLING STUNTING

Hanif Setiawan<sup>1</sup>, Erwin Hendra Putra<sup>2</sup>, Wawan Hendrawan<sup>3</sup>, Eka Aprilia<sup>4\*</sup>, Hengky Rosadi<sup>5</sup>,  
Dewi Ratna Sari<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1,2,3,4,5</sup>Pertamina EP Ramba Field, Sumatera Selatan, Indonesia

<sup>6</sup>Creative Movement, Indonesia

\*e-mail: Eka.aprillia14@gmail.com\* hengkyrosadi25@gmail.com

## Keywords

*stunting; collaboration; health*

## ABSTRACT

This paper seeks to analyze the impact of the Strong Synergy Program to Support Clean and Healthy Villages through the concept of "From Waste to Happy Community." Based on data that has been collected from posyandu activities in May 2024 in Keluang Village, Tungkal Ilir District, Banyuasin Regency, there are 8 toddlers experiencing stunting and malnutrition conditions out of 40 toddlers who attended the activity. The program is designed to reduce the amount of wood waste thrown away and reduce the negative impact caused, provide educational play tools that can improve the quality of children's learning and stimulation, help improve stunting conditions through better cognitive and motor stimulation, and provide economic opportunities for local artisans and drive the community's economy. This paper and the program can be a breakthrough in synergistic innovation, where it is a combination of environmental solutions with health and education interventions in Indonesia.

## INTRODUCTION

Stunting is a condition in which children experience growth disorders (Achmad et al., 2020; Aprilia et al., 2022; de Onis & Branca, 2016; Mustakim et al., 2022; Simbolon et al., 2021), so that the child's height does not match the average height of the child at his age, as a result of the chronic nutritional problems he suffers. Chronic nutrition in question is a lack of nutritional intake for a long time (Arvanitakis et al., 2020; Balestrieri et al., 2020; Bodirsky et al., 2020; Dipasquale et al., 2020; Soliman et al., 2021). Stunting cases are still one of the biggest problems in Indonesia, so it requires special attention and serious handling by all parties (Absori et al., 2022). With these cases, currently the Government of Indonesia has made the stunting handling program a national priority program, so it requires serious and integrated handling, in order to anticipate a surge in the number of stunting cases in the field (Rahman et al., 2023).

South Sumatra is one of the provinces with the highest rate of stunting incidence prevalence in Indonesia, with an incidence prevalence of 13.7% (Yuliana et al., 2022). Stunting cases are almost found throughout South Sumatra, including in Keluang Village, Tungkal Ilir District, Banyuasin Regency, South Sumatra Province. Keluang Village is one of the villages located in the operational area of PT Pertamina EP Ramba Field. Based on data that has been collected from posyandu activities in May 2024 in Keluang Village, Tungkal Ilir District, Banyuasin Regency, there are 8 toddlers experiencing stunting and malnutrition conditions out of 40 toddlers who attended the activity. Stunting or the condition of failure to grow in children due to chronic malnutrition is the most serious health problem in Indonesia today. Stunting not only affects physical growth, but also children's cognitive development, thus having an impact on their learning ability and future potential. The main causes of stunting problems are lack of

nutritional intake, recurrent infections, and lack of adequate early stimulation (Pertamina EP Ramba Field, 2024).

In addition to the problem of stunting, it turns out that other problems are also encountered in Keluang Village, Tungkal Ilir District. This problem is the waste problem. Until now, the waste problem is still quite difficult to handle in Keluang Village, Tungkal Ilir District. The wood processing industry in Indonesia produces a significant amount of wood waste every year. Wood waste that accumulates and is not managed properly, can cause environmental problems such as pollution and deforestation. In the field, wood waste is often burned or simply thrown away, so that it not only damages the environment, but also wastes valuable resources.

Looking at these two problems in the field, an idea emerged from Pertamina EP Ramba Field to integrate the use of wood waste with efforts to handle stunting through the Ramba Field Synergy Program to Support Clean and Healthy Villages through the concept of "From Waste to Happy Community." This concept gives the impression that simple innovations, which start from problems in the community, can have a positive impact on the quality of education and health at the village level. The program is designed to reduce the amount of wood waste thrown away and reduce the negative impact caused, provide educational play tools that can improve the quality of children's learning and stimulation, help improve stunting conditions through better cognitive and motor stimulation, and provide economic opportunities for local artisans and drive the community's economy.

This paper seeks to analyze the impact of the Strong Synergy Program (Ramba Field Synergy Supports Clean and Healthy Keluang) on Stunting Management. This paper and the program can be a breakthrough in synergistic innovation, where it is a combination of environmental solutions with health and education interventions in Indonesia. Through good collaboration and effective implementation, this program is expected to be a role model to solve similar problems that occur in several other regions and be part of confronting climate change.

## **METHODS**

The research method is in the form of qualitative field studies or field research. Field research is research where data is obtained directly from sources in the field, so that the data obtained is a primary source. The data collection technique is carried out by observation with active participation, in-depth interviews, documentation and focus group discussion. In implementing the Simba Kuat Program (Ramba Field Synergy Supports Clean and Healthy Villages) #From Waste To Happy Community, PT Pertamina EP Ramba Field carried out a replication strategy for the Simba Sehati program (Ramba Field Synergy Towards Healthy and Madani Schools) which has been carried out at SMP Negeri 2 Tungkal Ilir.

## **RESULTS**

### **Stunting Problems in Indonesia**

Indonesia is one of the countries faced with a double burden condition in nutritional status with the incidence of stunting one of the highest in the world. South Sumatra is one of the provinces that has a high rate of stunting incidence prevalence in Indonesia with a large incidence prevalence of 13.7% (Yuliana et al., 2022).

Stunting is defined as a short body condition based on the results of measuring Body Length by Age (PB/U) or Height by Age (TB/U) compared to the threshold index (z-score) with a threshold index (z-score) <-2 SD. TB/U measurement is an indicator of nutritional status in the past and describes the welfare and prosperity of a nation. Based on an excerpt from The United Nation Children Fund (UNICEF), stunting is caused by infectious disease factors and unbalanced intake, while the factors that affect it are indirectly related to sanitation, clean water, inadequate health services, insufficient food supplies and parenting (Aprizah, 2021).

Various studies have stated that stunting is a chronic nutritional problem related to poverty levels, low levels of education, and inadequate environmental services and health. Soedargo's research in 2010 stated that 20% of stunted children out of 6 million elementary school age children in Indonesia are caused by hereditary factors and another 80% of elementary school children who are stunted are caused by nutrition and infections, behavior, poverty, education, and nutritional knowledge. Meanwhile, based on research from Salimar, the factors of family size, family work, family education, and maternal education are related to nutritional status (stunting) in school-age children (Aprizah, 2021).

If we reflect on the high prevalence of stunting caused by the multidisciplinary factor, there is a need for prevention and control efforts through approaches from various disciplines, because stunting

prevention and control is not enough to improve nutritional interventions alone, but there are other factors, namely lifestyle, sanitation and environmental hygiene. The factor of low sanitation and environmental cleanliness is one of the indicators of Clean and Healthy Living Behavior (PHBS).

The government has formulated a National Strategy (STRANAS) to accelerate stunting control which is referred to as Stranas Stunting. Stranas Stunting is a reference document used to ensure convergent coordination of all interventions for all stakeholders. Interventions include specific interventions and sensitive interventions. Specific interventions are focused on pregnant women and children aged 0-2 years or households in the first thousand days of life (1000 HPK). In Presidential Regulation number 72 of 2021, concerning the Acceleration of Stunting Reduction, it is stated that the acceleration of stunting reduction is carried out in a holistic, integrative, and quality manner, carried out through coordination, synergy and synchronization between Ministries/Institutions, Provincial and Regency/City Regional Governments, Village Governments and other stakeholders in order to achieve the national target of stunting prevalence. Based on the results of the 2019 Indonesia Nutrition Status Survey, the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Indonesia has carried out a study to support the acceleration of nutrition interventions. In accordance with Presidential Regulation number 72 of 2021, the government targets to reduce the prevalence of stunting among children under five nationally by 14% (fourteen percent) by 2024 (Mastina & Mitra, 2023).

One of the things that needs to be considered in the implementation of the stunting reduction acceleration program is strengthening planning and budgeting, improving the quality of implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and reporting. One of the pillars in the stranas is coordination, and consolidation between central, district/city and village programs. Cross-sector coordination is very important in the optimal implementation of convergence actions, cross-program synchronization in handling stunting. Convergence actions to reduce stunting are carried out through eight convergence actions, namely (1) situation analysis, (2) activity plans, (3) stunting rembuk, (4) Village/Village Role Guardians/Perbup, (5) Human Development Cadre Development, (6) Data Management System, (7) Stunting Data Measurement and Publication, and (8) Annual Performance Review. The eight convergence actions are carried out starting from the process of planning, budgeting, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of programs/activities (Mastina & Mitra, 2023).

### **Simba Kuat Program (Ramba Field Synergy Supports Clean and Healthy Keluang)**

The Simba Sehati program (Ramba Field Synergy Towards Healthy and Madani Schools) has been successfully implemented in the scope of SMP Negeri 2 Tungkal Ilir. In 2024, the Simba Sehati program will continue to strive to provide benefits to the community systematically through a program replication strategy. The program replication strategy is carried out by expanding the scope of the program area which was previously only in the scope of schools to a wider scope, namely rural. This made the name of the program change as a form of adjustment to the strategy used to become Simba Kuat (Synergy of Ramba Field to support Clean and Healthy Keluang) (Ramba et al., n.d.).

The implementation of the corporate social responsibility (TJSL) program of PT Pertamina EP Ramba Field involves relevant stakeholders such as the Tungkal Ilir District Health Center which plays a role in capacity building through health training for health cadres or child doctors at SMP Negeri 2 Tungkal Ilir. The Tungkal Ilir District Government, which plays a role as a policy holder that supports the implementation of the Simba Sehati program, issued a decree of the Tungkal Ilir Sub-district Number SK.310/039/C.TI/2022 concerning the implementation of the healthy school program in Tungkal Ilir District, Banyuasin Regency. SMP Negeri 2 Tungkal Ilir acts as a coordinator for school students who are members of the activity implementation group and PKK Keluang Village plays a role as the implementer of waste management activities within the scope of Waste Bank activities with SMP Negeri 2 Tungkal Ilir (Pertamina EP Ramba Field, 2024).

The activity carried out this year is a waste bank-based household waste management training with a plung up system. This training is important to carry out as a forum for knowledge transfer from schools to the surrounding community. Waste banks are chosen as appropriate technology that can be adopted by the community as a tangible form of environmental improvement efforts through mutual cooperation from the site level. The plung up system in the waste bank is used as an awareness to the public that the solution to environmental problems can be overcome by collaboration between parties, in this case, the waste bank and the waste collector. So that the community does not feel burdened by having to build infrastructure as a waste collection container, but the managed waste can be directly

absorbed by waste collectors with a mutual agreement strategy between the parties starting from the price, place/location of the waste bank weighing and the time of waste collection.

Another activity that will be carried out to strengthen the role of the waste bank as a strong community group, both institutionally and financially is training in making educational game tools based on wood waste. One type of waste that contributes to environmental pollution is organic waste in the form of wood waste. This waste is obtained from the results of wood processing activities in Keluang Village, which is still minimally utilized. Departing from these problems, the Simba Kuat program encourages waste bank groups to process and utilize wood waste into educational games. Educational games were chosen as a response to another problem that occurred in Keluang Village, namely stunting. Stunting is a chronic nutritional problem due to a lack of nutritional intake in the long term, resulting in impaired growth in children. In addition to lack of food intake, stunting is also influenced by the factor of lack of motor stimulation in children. Therefore, this training is expected to be a solution to provide a variety of educational game tools for children in Keluang Village to support increased motor stimulation in children. So that the activity is expected to reduce the stunting prevalence rate which is currently at 24 percent from the target of the government of the Republic of Indonesia in 2024, which is 14 percent, as well as a response to answer responsible environmental management and efforts to improve community welfare through existing local potential (Pertamina EP Ramba Field, 2024).

Another activity carried out by Pertamina EP Ramba Field in an effort to reduce the stunting prevalence rate in Keluang Village is by providing main and additional feeding. This activity is the responsibility of the An-nur Posyandu group under the supervision of practicing midwives in Keluang Village. Posyandu cadres have become skilled personnel in helping to disseminate knowledge related to maternal and child health in Keluang Village for the past 10 years. Posyandu activities include monitoring the development of toddlers measured from weight scales, height, and participation in completing vitamins and immunizations every month. The existence of main and additional feeding is important in succeeding in reducing the stunting prevalence rate in Keluang Village. More than that, the An-Nur Posyandu group received an increase in skills in the form of cooking training that can be used to develop the group's potential in providing healthy and nutritious food for toddlers in particular and the community in general.

The main and additional feeding activities are inseparable from the role of the Kekar Gemilang Women Farmers Group (KWT). KWT Kekar Gemilang is a community group formed to provide local vegetables and protein as an effort to fulfill community nutrition and contribute to the field of food security. The activities that will be carried out this year are organic agriculture training to support food security in Kekar Gemilang Hamlet and catfish cultivation training with a biofloc system.

### **Impact of the Simba Kuat Program (Ramba Field Synergy Supports Clean and Healthy Keluang)**

The Simba Kuat program has had a significant impact and results on the aspect of increasing the capacity of community groups related to household waste management and wood waste processing skills into high-selling value products. Meanwhile, in the posyandu group, this program increases the group's knowledge related to efforts to reduce stunting together. This effort is shown by the Women Farmers Group (KWT) which produces vegetables and protein to meet and meet the main food needs and supplements in the stunting program.

The impact of the program can be explained using a sustainable compass which consists of four aspects, namely nature, economy, wellbeing, and social aspects. In terms of nature or environment, the program is able to reduce plastic waste by 1.4 tons/year and reduce air pollution from CO gas by 5.4 tons/year due to waste incineration. In addition, the formation of green, hydroponic and aquaponic open spaces from the program that has been running, is able to save water use. In the economic aspect, there is a saving in water use in budikdamber and hydroponic activities, a savings in consumption expenditure from hydroponic and budikdamber vegetable products of Rp. 1,125,000/month. In the wellbeing aspect, 15 people have knowledge related to the concept of waste bank savings, 300 beneficiaries participated in the program, two new groups were formed as program managers and 4 new skills were produced (waste management, hydroponic system vegetable cultivation, fish farming in buckets and adolescent health cadre training). In the social aspect, there is a change in community behavior through the implementation of PHBS in the home and school environment. In addition, there is social cohesion between school residents, the community, the Keluang Village PKK, Pertamina Ramba Field, and the community (Pertamina EP Ramba Field, 2024).

The community empowerment program that has been designed by PT Pertamina EP Ramba Field has contributed to the achievement of the sustainable development goals (SDGs). In line with the sustainable development goals (SDGs), the central and regional governments have adopted them in the form of National and Regional Medium-Term Development Plans (RPJMN and RPJMD) as well as strategic plans of relevant ministries which are currently in the 2020-2024 period. The contribution of PT Pertamina EP Ramba Field in the sustainable development goals or SDGs includes first, in indicator 11. Making Cities and Settlements Inclusive, Safe, Resilient and Sustainable. Furthermore, in indicator 11.6 By 2030, reduce adverse per capita urban environmental impacts, including by paying special attention to air quality, including municipal waste handling. Finally, on indicator 11.6.1. (a) The percentage of national waste managed by the contribution of the TOGA Utilization Development Program into Botanical Beverages and Healthy Processed Foods is 0.00000155% in 2020, 0.00000156% in 2021, and 0.00000152% in 2022 (Pertamina EP Ramba Field, 2024).

The CSR program that has been implemented also includes periodic monitoring and evaluation activities so that the company will know the advantages and disadvantages of the program to be material for improvement in the implementation of the CSR program in the next period. In addition to monitoring and evaluating the program, the company has also carried out a study of the Community Satisfaction Index in beneficiaries with an IKM score of 3.88 with a conversion index value of 97.12% which is included in the "Very Good" category (COMMUNITY SATISFACTION INDEX (IKM) STUDY REPORT OF THE PERTAMINA EP RAMBA FIELD CSR PROGRAM IN 2023 (Ramba Field Synergy Towards Healthy and Madani Schools), 2023). This means that the beneficiary community is very satisfied with the implementation of the community empowerment program. In addition, the program has also been measured by a Social Return On Investment (SROI) study with an SROI value of 1.12. This means that every Rp 1.00 invested in the SIMBA SEHATI Program (Synergy of the Ramba Field Towards Healthy and Madani Schools), is able to have a social impact of Rp 1.12 (Compiler & Learning, 2023). This value indicates that the SIMBA SEHATI Program (Synergy of Ramba Field Towards Healthy and Madani Schools) has succeeded in having a positive impact on its main stakeholders.

It is hoped that in the next two years, with the implementation of this TJSL program, the community will be in the stage of independence. This is one of the targets for the end of the program, so that with or without company assistance, the community will still be able to carry out its activities properly and sustainably.

## CONCLUSION

Indonesia faces a significant double burden of nutritional issues, with a high prevalence of stunting, particularly in South Sumatra, where 13.7% of children are affected. In response, PT Pertamina EP Ramba Field has expanded the successful Simba Sehati Program to rural areas, renaming it Simba Kuat, to address these challenges. The program includes comprehensive initiatives such as waste management, nutrition training, and local food production, leading to positive environmental, economic, and social outcomes, including reductions in plastic waste and CO emissions, economic savings, and enhanced community cohesion. Future research should focus on evaluating the long-term impact and scalability of Simba Kuat in reducing stunting and improving nutritional status, as well as its contribution to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Insights from this research could help replicate and expand similar initiatives in other rural areas.

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