

# BUDGETARY POLITICS IN STUNTING HANDLING IN JEMBER REGENCY: GOOD FINANCIAL GOVERNANCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS PERSPECTIVES

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## Abstract

Jember Regency came into the national spotlight for recording the highest stunting prevalence in East Java based on the 2022 SSGI data, at 34.9%. This phenomenon demands an aggressive fiscal policy response as a form of state obligation. This study aims to analyze the effectiveness of the Jember Regency Government's budgetary politics in handling stunting from the perspectives of Public Finance and Citizenship. This research employs a qualitative descriptive method with a library research approach. The results indicate that the Jember Regency Government allocated a specific cross-agency budget reaching IDR 341 Billion in the 2023 Fiscal Year. However, there is a significant data disparity between the central survey (SSGI) and local data (Weighing Month), which affects the precision of budget targeting. From a citizenship perspective, the magnitude of this budget is a manifestation of non-physical state defense to save the next generation, although challenges in data accountability remain a major obstacle in fully fulfilling citizens' right to health.

**Keywords:** *Budgetary Politics, Stunting, Jember, Public Finance, Human Rights.*

## INTRODUCTION

In the discourse of modern public finance, regional budgets (APBD) are no longer viewed merely as accounting instruments, but rather as political documents that reflect civic values. The issue of stunting (growth failure) in Indonesia, particularly in East Java, serves as a real test of this commitment. Children experiencing stunting not only lose their physical potential but also suffer violations of their constitutional right to grow and thrive, as guaranteed by the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia. Jember Regency constitutes an interesting locus of study due to the data anomaly that has occurred. Based on the 2022 Indonesian Nutrition Status Survey (SSGI), the prevalence of stunting in Jember reached 34.9%, placing it as the highest in East Java. This figure contrasts sharply with internal data from the Jember Regency Government through the "Bulan Timbang" program, which recorded a significantly lower rate, in the single-digit range (approximately 7%). This data discrepancy has direct implications for fiscal policy. In 2023 and 2024, the Jember Regency Government implemented massive budgetary interventions. The fundamental question, therefore, is: how is the construction of budgetary politics formulated by the Jember Regency Government in responding to this "stunting emergency" status? Furthermore, does the magnitude of the allocated budget correspond proportionally to the realization of social justice for the people of Jember?

## Research Objective

This study aims to examine the allocation of the Jember Regency APBD in addressing stunting and to assess it as a form of fulfilling the human rights of citizens.

## METHOD

This study employs a **Descriptive Qualitative** method using a document study approach. The author does not conduct field surveys; instead, the analysis is based on publicly available (open-access) documents.

The data sources include:

1. The Jember Regency Regional Budget (APBD) for Fiscal Years 2023 and 2024.
2. Performance reports of the Stunting Reduction Acceleration Team (TPPS) of Jember Regency.
3. Official news releases and data publications from the Jember Regency Health Office and the Ministry of Health.

The analysis is carried out by comparing political will (budgetary commitment) with principles of citizenship, particularly transparency and public rights.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### **Jember's Budget Politics: Fiscal Response to the Crisis**

In an effort to reduce the stunting rate claimed to be high by the central government, the Jember Regency Government has demonstrated an aggressive fiscal response. Based on the 2023 Regional Budget (APBD) data, the total budget allocated for convergent (cross-sectoral) stunting management reached a remarkable amount of IDR 341 billion. This budget is not concentrated solely within the Health Office but is distributed across several Regional Apparatus Organizations (OPD), such as the Office of Women's Empowerment, Child Protection, and Family Planning (DP3AKB), as well as the Public Works and Human Settlements Office for sanitation programs. From a public finance perspective, the allocation of IDR 341 billion from Jember's total APBD, which amounted to approximately IDR 4.2 trillion (FY 2024), indicates that both mandatory spending and priority spending have been implemented. This reflects the regional government's use of fiscal instruments to address acute social problems.

### **The “J-Penting Aksi” Program as a Form of State Defense**

The Jember Regency Government launched the innovations “J-Penting Aksi” (Jember Center for Stunting Education and Management) and “J-Chat Penting.” From a citizenship perspective, these programs constitute a form of non-physical state defense. While physical state defense is carried out by the armed forces through military means, the Jember Regency Government practices state defense through the APBD by “combating” malnutrition. Funds allocated for supplementary food provision (PMT) for pregnant women and toddlers represent a concrete implementation of the Fifth Principle of Pancasila—Social Justice for All Indonesian People. The state is present to ensure that no citizen of Jember is left behind in their growth due to structural poverty.

### **Data Issues: Challenges to Good Governance**

Despite the substantial budget allocation, this study identifies gaps in the implementation of good governance. There is a dualism of data between the national SSGI, which reported Jember's stunting prevalence at 34.9% in 2022, and the regional electronic Community-Based Nutrition Recording and Reporting System (e-PPGBM), which reported a much lower rate of approximately 6–7%. From the perspective of state financial law, inaccurate baseline data have the potential to cause budget inefficiency (budget waste). If beneficiary data are invalid, stunting assistance amounting to billions of rupiah may be misallocated. Therefore, data transparency constitutes an absolute right of citizens that must be fulfilled prior to the disbursement of public funds.

## **CONCLUSION**

### **Conclusion**

Based on the document analysis, it can be concluded that:

1. Quantitatively, the Jember Regency Government has demonstrated a very strong political commitment in budgetary policy, with convergent stunting funding reaching IDR 341 billion in Fiscal Year 2023.
2. This budgetary policy represents a manifestation of the protection of citizens' human rights; however, its effectiveness remains constrained by discrepancies in the validity of target data between the central and regional governments.

### **Recommendation**

An integrated data audit based on the **One Data Indonesia (Satu Data Indonesia)** framework is required in Jember Regency to ensure that every rupiah of the APBD genuinely benefits the citizens most in need, rather than merely serving administrative budget absorption purposes.

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