

## FACT SHEET

### REVITALIZING EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTHWEST SUMBA



*Students of PAUD Azzahra 3 Katewel sing a farewell song at the end of the class together with their teachers (Photo: WLF/Samni).*

#### BACKGROUND

The first five years of a child's life are fundamentally important. They are the foundation that shapes children's future health, happiness, growth, development and learning achievement at school, in the family and community, and in life in general<sup>1</sup>. Chronic malnutrition, infection and inadequate psychosocial stimulation at an early age may cause an impaired growth and development that cause stunting.

Stunting and malnutrition rates in Indonesia are at a concerning level, including in the Southwest Sumba District in East Nusa Tenggara Province. The district recorded the highest stunting prevalence rate in the province with 39.98% of children under 5 years of age being stunted, higher than the already high national average of 30.8% (National Basic Health Survey, 2018).

Stunting was caused by multidimensional factors which require multi-sectoral coordination to respond to the problem. In 2013, the Government of Indonesia issued Presidential Regulation No.60/2013 to establish and promote a model of early childhood care education (ECCE) centers called Holistic Integrated - Early

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<sup>1</sup>Fact For Life, Fourth Edition, UNICEF (<https://www.unicef.org/ffl/03/>)

Childhood Care and Development (HI-ECCD) or *Pendidikan Anak Usia Dini Holistik Integratif (PAUD-HI)*. This model integrates multi sectoral services which are critical in optimizing early childhood development: early childhood education services, health and nutritional services as well as parenting education services, such as collaboration between ECC centers and healthcare units for early detection on children growth and development, health and nutrition improvement, parenting program, as well as with other relevant stakeholders for child protection and welfare.

However, for the most part, the quality of ECCD services in Southwest Sumba District was well below the minimum and national standards mainly due to factors of inadequate infrastructure, low human resources capacity, and gaps in the regulatory framework, resulting in no formal mechanism to ensure ECCD service delivery ran as intended.

### OUR PROGRAM

To increase access for children of 0-6 years old to quality HI-ECCD services, in December 2019, William and Lily Foundation (WLF), together with Sumba Integrated Development (SID), launched a program on Revitalizing Early Childhood Care and Development in Southwest Sumba, dedicated to improve the delivery of basic services, stimulation and intervention for early childhood development and responsive care. Program was implemented in 28 ECC centers together with 50 Villages' Integrated Healthcare Center (*Posyandu*) in 13 villages in 3 sub-districts.

The program focuses on **four components**:

1. Capacity building of early childhood care education (ECCE) teachers on curriculum and pedagogical knowledge and skills.
2. Capacity building of ECCE teachers and management, *Posyandu* cadres, Early childhood family assistance (*Bina Keluarga Balita/BKB*) cadres and village midwives on HI-ECCD approach and implementation.
3. Capacity building of relevant local government officials and line ministries on HI-ECCD approach.
4. Establishment of a **multi-stakeholder forum** for ECCD at the district level and capacity building of members on effective advocacy.

Revitalizing Early Childhood Care and Development program is implemented in 13 villages in 3 sub-districts:

Kodi Utara

- Bokambero
- Hombakaripit
- Kori
- Limbu Kembe
- Mangganipi

Kota Tambolaka

- Wee Londa
- Wee Pangali
- Wee Rena

Laura

- Karuni
- Lete Konda
- Letekonda Selatan
- Loka Kalada
- Pogo Tena

28 Early Childhood Care Education Centers (PAUD)  
50 Integrated Healthcare Center (Posyandu)  
50 Early Childhood Family Assistance (BKB)  
13 village midwives

The program has supported the Southwest Sumba District Government, as well as sub-district and village governments, in improving access to quality holistic-integrative early childhood care and development services by:

- Facilitating the establishment of a total of 17 HI-ECCD Task Forces in the district (1), sub-district (3) and village (13) levels. The Task force members are equipped with knowledge on HI-ECCD model and approach, advocacy and organisational management to encourage quality and sustainable HI-ECCD services in the long run.
- Developing training modules on HI-ECCD Model and Approach, Curriculum 2013 and Responsive Care.
- Conducting capacity building program (Training on Trainers) on HI-ECCD, basic service integration and facilitation skills to local facilitators, government partners in district and subdistrict level (Education Office, Health Office, Social Affairs Office, Village Empowerment Office, as well as Women Empowerment, Child Protection, Family Planning and Population Control Office), as well as teachers and midwives association.
- Supporting the HI-ECCD Task Forces and local facilitators in training the ECCE teachers, *Posyandu* cadres, BKB cadres and village midwives on HI-ECCD approach, advocacy and organisational management. The capacity building program will be continued with the 2013 Curriculum and responsive care training on the second-year of the program's implementation.
- Supporting the village government's effort in improving access to HI-ECCD. The increased commitment of village government was shown through the drafting of village regulations on HI-ECCD in all assisted villages.



*Learning activities in PAUD are conducted by applying thematic model in every semester. For each theme, the students will learn about colours, shapes, sizes, and textures among others (Photo: WLF).*

#### PROGRAM KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

##### Regulations:

- Issuance of 13 district head decrees on the establishment of HI-ECCD Task Force roles and functions on the district, sub-district and village levels.
- Development of village head regulation on HI-ECCD implementation in 13 villages.
- Proposal to issue a district head circular letter on budget allocation for HI-ECCD program in all villages in Southwest Sumba District.

##### Action plans and implementation:

- Development of HI-ECCD District Task Force's Annual Work Plan on budget allocation for HI-ECCD program implementation at district level.
- Development of 13 Village Action Plans and 3 Sub-district Action Plans as recommendations on HI-ECCD program implementation.
- Allocation of village budget in 9 out of 13 villages to support HI-ECCD implementation in which one of the items is to fund the capacity building program for teachers, *Posyandu* cadres and midwives after the HI-ECCD Revitalization program is concluded.
- Socialization of HI-ECCD model and approach in each of ECC centers in Weelonda Village in Kota Tambolaka Subdistrict by the HI-ECCD Task Force and the village government. The village government had also scheduled for the implementation of the integrated basic services which are the component of HI-ECCD, as well as allocated the village budget to support its

implementation. The village government also invited the neighbouring villages to join the socialization events.

**Knowledge and capacity development:**

- Improved knowledge and capacity of the government partners and HI-ECCD Task Force on HI-ECCD model and approach, advocacy, networking, budget allocation and ability to identify potential district and village programs which can support the implementation of HI-ECCD.
- Improved knowledge and capacity of teachers, *Posyandu* cadres and midwives on HI-ECCD model and approach, integrated basic services, advocacy, as well as organisational management.

**Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI):**

- Training materials on 4-basic services of HI-ECCD included detailed elaboration on inclusive education and health services, especially on infrastructure (accessible buildings for children with disabilities) and health procedures to ensure children who need special handling are referred to a more appropriate health facility.
- Participation of women from various government institutions in district and subdistrict levels, as well as members of HI-ECCD in discussion, preparation and decision making of HI-ECCD program implementation.



*PAUD Azzahra 3 Katewel students gather for a welcoming session before the class (Photo: WLF/Samni).*