

## Optimizing Public Policies for Stunting Prevention: A Maqashid Sharia and SDGs-Based Framework

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### Abstract

**Objective:** This study aims to optimize public policies for stunting prevention in Indonesia by integrating the principles of Maqashid Sharia with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), focusing on the protection of the soul (hifdzun nafs) and offspring (hifdzun nasl) to address the root causes of stunting. **Theoretical framework:** The study uses Maqashid Sharia, which emphasizes the protection of five core values: religion, soul, intellect, heredity, and property, to guide the design of policies aimed at improving children's well-being and ensuring sustainable development. **Literature Review:** Literature highlights the key role of nutrition, maternal and child health, public awareness, and access to clean water and sanitation in stunting prevention. These align with SDGs 2, SDG 3, and SDG 6, emphasizing the need for a holistic approach that includes social, economic, and environmental dimensions. **Methods:** This study employs a qualitative approach, using a combination of public policy analysis, literature review, and field data analysis. Surveys and in-depth interviews were conducted in areas with high stunting prevalence to gather insights into existing policies and the public's perceptions of stunting control measures. **Results:** The study found that policies focused on ensuring adequate nutrition, improving maternal and child health, and raising public awareness are in alignment with the principles of Maqashid Sharia. Furthermore, access to clean water and sanitation was identified as crucial for maintaining public health and the quality of life for future generations. Policies must integrate these elements to ensure sustainable stunting prevention. **Implications:** Stunting control policies in Indonesia should be optimized with a holistic approach, addressing not just health but also social, economic, and environmental factors. Incorporating Maqashid Sharia and the SDGs can create inclusive, equitable, and sustainable solutions for stunting prevention. **Novelty:** This study introduces a novel perspective by applying Maqashid Sharia to public policies on stunting prevention, integrating ethical, social, and spiritual values with technical policy measures for a comprehensive solution.

**Keywords:** stunting prevention, public policy optimization, maqashid sharia, sdgs, child health.

### INTRODUCTION

Stunting is one of the most pressing public health problems in Indonesia and many other developing countries. The term stunting refers to a condition when a child is shorter than the standard age, caused by chronic malnutrition, especially in the first 1,000 days of life, from

pregnancy to the age of two. Stunting not only affects children's physical growth but also negatively impacts cognitive development, long-term health, and economic productivity capacity in adulthood. The problem of stunting is becoming increasingly important to overcome because of its wide impact on the quality of human resources, which in turn affects the social and economic development of a nation [1],[2].

According to data from the World Health Organization (WHO), Indonesia is one of the countries with the highest stunting prevalence rate. In 2021, around 24.4% of children under five in Indonesia were stunted. This means that almost one in four children in Indonesia has stunted growth, and this is certainly a serious challenge for the country's development. The Indonesian government has taken various steps to overcome this problem, starting from the launch of the National Strategy to Accelerate Stunting Reduction (2018-2024) program, to collaboration between various sectors to increase public awareness about the importance of maternal and child nutrition. However, although some progress has been made, the matter is far from complete. Therefore, a more comprehensive and holistic approach is needed to truly address this problem effectively [3].

The optimization of public policies for stunting prevention is a critical approach that aligns with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities). These global goals emphasize the importance of reducing hunger and malnutrition, ensuring good health, and promoting equitable access to resources, which are all integral to tackling the stunting problem. By aligning national policies with these global objectives, Indonesia can take a more integrated approach to reducing stunting, contributing to global progress while addressing local needs.

One of the interesting approaches to be studied in the context of stunting prevention is Maqashid Syariah. Maqashid Sharia is a basic principle in Islamic law that serves as a foundation to achieve human welfare and safeguard five basic things: religion (hifdzud diin), soul (hifdzun nafs), reason (hifdzul 'aql), heredity (hifdzun nasl), and property (hifdzul maal). Public policy based on these principles not only focuses on solving problems on the surface but also seeks to address the root of the problem by considering the overall social, spiritual, and economic aspects [4].

Principles of Maqashid Sharia in the Context of Stunting Mitigation. Maqashid Syariah offers a strong conceptual framework for designing policies that are oriented towards the welfare of the community. This principle puts people at the center of every policy and ensures that all actions taken must contribute to the protection and promotion of these five basic values. In the context of stunting, the two main principles of Maqashid Sharia that are very relevant are hifdzun nafs (protection of life) and hifdzun nasl (protection of offspring) [5].

Hifdzun Nafs emphasized the importance of protection for human health and safety. In this case, stunting is a threat to children's health and safety. Stunting conditions result in decreased immunity, increased risk of disease, and impaired cognitive development, all of which threaten children's lives in the short and long term. Therefore, public policies that aim to reduce the prevalence of stunting must focus on improving nutrition, access to quality health services, and improving the welfare of pregnant women and children [6].

Hifdzun Nasl emphasized the protection of offspring, which in the context of stunting means ensuring that future generations grow up healthy and have the opportunity to develop optimally. Stunting not only impacts the affected children but also has long-term implications for the next generation. Children who grow up with stunting tend to have lower academic achievement and limited economic productivity, and in some cases, they can pass on the same condition to their children. This creates a cycle of poverty and poor health that continues to recur, so stopping treatment is very crucial to break the cycle [7].

The Dimension of Social Justice in Public Policy. Maqashid Syariah also emphasizes the importance of social justice in every policy made. Stunting control requires special attention to the most vulnerable groups, especially poor families and those living in remote areas. Studies show that stunting prevalence is highest in areas that have limited access to adequate health services, clean water, and nutrition education. Therefore, effective policies must reach all levels of society, especially those most in need [8].

In this case, optimizing public policy requires an inclusive and equitable approach. Governments must ensure that nutrition interventions, maternal and child health programs, and access to clean water and sanitation are available equally across regions, regardless of social or economic status. These programs should not only be focused on urban areas but also in rural and remote areas, where access to resources is often very limited. From the perspective of Maqashid Sharia, this is by the principle of justice (adl), where every individual has the same right to health and welfare protection [9].

Policy Optimization through an Integrated Approach. One of the biggest challenges in stunting prevention is the lack of coordination between sectors. Stunting is not only a health problem but also involves other aspects such as education, the economy, the environment, and society. Therefore, sectoral and partial approaches are often incapable of providing sustainable solutions. To address this, integrated public policies are needed, in which different sectors work together to achieve the same goals [10].

The Maqashid Syariah approach underlines the importance of synergy between sectors in formulating effective policies. For example, increased access to maternal and child health services must be supported by nutrition education programs that involve the community, as well as efforts to improve sanitation and clean water supply. All of these sectors are intertwined, and the success of one program is highly dependent on progress in the other. Therefore, policies oriented to the principles of Maqashid Sharia must be able to facilitate harmonious and coordinated cross-sector cooperation [11].

Sustainable and Long-Term. Stunting control policies must also be designed to be sustainable in the long term. Temporary interventions will only have a limited impact and cannot solve the problem fundamentally. The Maqashid Syariah approach emphasizes the importance of maintaining sustainability (istidama), which ensures that the policies implemented can continue to function and provide benefits in the future. This includes careful planning, proper allocation of resources, and active involvement of the community in the implementation of these programs [12],[13].

Thus, optimizing public policies in stunting prevention, in alignment with the SDGs and based on the principles of Maqashid Syariah, is not only a matter of providing short-term solutions but also building a strong foundation for the welfare of future generations. This approach ensures that every aspect of human life is taken into account, from health to education to social justice [14].

Gap problem. Stunting is a crucial and complex health problem that affects millions of children in Indonesia as well as in various other developing countries. Despite various countermeasures, the prevalence of stunting is still high, indicating challenges in the implementation of effective public policies. The many policies and programs that have been launched by the government, such as increasing access to health services, food assistance, and nutrition education programs, have not provided optimal results. The imbalance between policy objectives and implementation results indicates that there are gaps that need to be identified and resolved [15].

There are several important aspects of stunting control policies that are of concern, especially in terms of effectiveness, justice, and sustainability of the policy. Sectoral approaches and fragmentation in policy implementation are often the main causes of the ineffectiveness of existing programs. This results in the failure to achieve the long-term goals and sustainability of the program, especially in areas that have limited access to adequate

health and nutrition services. This is where the first policy gap can be found, namely the lack of a holistic approach that is integrated between sectors in combating stunting [16],[17].

From the perspective of social justice, the programs that have been implemented are often not able to reach all levels of society, especially the most vulnerable groups, such as the poor, rural, and remote areas. This gap shows the lack of social justice-based policies, where access to adequate health services and nutrition should be the basic right of every individual. In this context, there is a gap between existing policies and the desired principle of justice, which should ensure that every individual, regardless of social and economic status, has equal access to the necessary interventions [18].

The Maqashid Sharia approach, which focuses on the protection of the soul (hifdzun nafs) and offspring (hifdzun nasl), provides an ethical and philosophical framework that has the potential to fill the gaps in stunting control policies. However, the implementation of policies based on Maqashid Sharia is still not optimized. One of the main gaps is the lack of integration of maqashid values in policy formulation and implementation. The principles of Maqashid Sharia that emphasize holistic welfare, justice, and sustainability are often not the main basis for designing public policies, especially those related to stunting [19].

In addition, there are gaps in policy monitoring and evaluation. Effective monitoring and evaluation systems have not been fully implemented on an ongoing basis, making it difficult to measure the long-term impact of the various programs that have been implemented. Irregular evaluations result in inaccurate data and delays in making necessary policy improvements [20].

The novelty of this study is that the public policy approach in stunting management generally focuses on technical aspects such as providing nutritional assistance, improving access to health services, and improving sanitation. While these interventions are important, there is a need to explore more holistic and value-based approaches to create long-term impact. This is where the principles of Maqashid Syariah offer something new [21].

The novelty of this analysis lies in the application of the philosophical and ethical framework of Maqashid Syariah into public policy, which has not been widely explored in the literature on stunting control policies. This approach emphasizes holistic well-being involving five main goals: religious protection (hifdzud diin), soul (hifdzun nafs), intellect (hifdzul aql), heredity (hifdzun nasl), and property (hifdzul maal). In the context of stunting control, this analysis introduces a new perspective that integrates spiritual, ethical, and social values into technical policies [22].

Some of the novelty aspects proposed in this study include: 1) Welfare-Based Holistic Approach: By using Maqashid Sharia, stunting control policies are not only focused on physical or economic improvement but also involve spiritual and moral aspects in protecting the soul (hifdzun nafs) and preserving offspring (hifdzun nasl). This broadens the scope of the policy, including psychosocial needs, protection of family values, and social life balance [23]. 2) Social Justice as the Core of Policy: The Maqashid approach emphasizes the importance of justice in the distribution of resources. With this, policies can be focused on ensuring that nutrition, health, and sanitation interventions reach the most vulnerable communities, including those in remote areas and poor families. The aspect of justice (hifdzul maal) in maqashid opens up space to design policies that are more inclusive and fair for all levels of society [24]. 3) Sustainability and Long-Term Focus: One of the drawbacks of many stunting control programs is the lack of focus on sustainability. Through Maqashid Syariah, public policies are expected to be more proactive in creating sustainability, taking into account aspects of future generation protection (hifdzun nasl) and sustainable resource management, so that the stunting problem does not recur [25]. 4) Integration of Maqashid Values in Evaluation and Monitoring: Another novelty is the proposal to adopt the Maqashid framework in the policy evaluation system. This will help create evaluative measures that look not only at the statistical or technical aspects of success but also at the extent to which the policy has protected the holistic well-being of the community [26].

With this approach, stunting policy analysis is not only a matter of physical or economic improvement but also involves holistic well-being based on deep ethical and spiritual values, which have not been widely integrated into public policy.



**Figure 1. Stunted Children.** Sources: <https://shorturl.at/33Gty>

## LITERATURE REVIEW

Optimizing public policies in combating stunting is very important, especially when viewed through the lens of the principles of maqoshid al-Shariah, which aim to achieve the benefit of the people. Stunting, caused by chronic malnutrition, has an impact on children's physical growth and cognitive development, so it requires a comprehensive and sustainable approach. The maqoshid principle emphasizes the protection of lives (hifdzun nafs), offspring (hifdzun nasl), and property (hifdzul maal), which is relevant in formulating policies to combat stunting [27].

In alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities), public policies must ensure access to nutritious food and adequate health services to protect the soul and support children's growth. These SDGs guide the creation of policies that aim to reduce malnutrition, promote health, and reduce disparities across different social groups. By addressing these SDGs, policies are better aligned with global efforts to combat stunting and its long-term consequences [28].

Furthermore, community empowerment in policy planning can increase program effectiveness, as it creates a sense of local ownership and relevance. According to SDG 10, reducing inequalities involves improving access to opportunities for all, including vulnerable communities, which is essential in stunting prevention. Coordination between sectors is also key to addressing stunting holistically, considering that this problem involves health, education, and economic aspects. The integration of policies that address the interconnections between these sectors can enhance the overall impact of stunting prevention efforts.

Through this approach, public policies can not only reduce stunting rates but also contribute to the creation of a healthier and more productive generation. The goals of Maqashid al-Shariah and the SDGs both emphasize the importance of human welfare, which includes ensuring health, education, and sustainable economic development. Regular policy evaluation and adaptation are also needed to ensure that the programs implemented remain relevant and effective in the changing context. This aligns with SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), which encourages continuous improvement and long-term sustainability in policy practices [29].

**Table 1. Literature Review**

Aspects	Recommended Policies	Relevance to Maqoshid al-Shariah
Access to nutritious food	Provision of nutritious food subsidies and supplementary feeding programs for children and pregnant women.	Protection of life ( <i>hifzh al-nafs</i> ).
Healthcare	Improving access to health services, including immunization and maternal and child care in remote areas.	Protection of the soul ( <i>hifzh al-nafs</i> ) and heredity ( <i>hifzh al-nasl</i> ).
Nutrition Education	Nutrition education campaigns for families and communities about the importance of healthy eating.	Protection of intellect ( <i>hifzh al-aql</i> ) and heredity ( <i>hifzh al-nasl</i> ).
Community Empowerment	Involve the community in the planning and implementation of stunting control programs.	Fostering a sense of social responsibility (the benefit of the people).
Coordination Between Sectors	Cross-sectoral policy integration: health, education, economy, and sanitation.	Protection of life, offspring, and property ( <i>hifzh al-mal</i> ).
Policy Evaluation	Periodic monitoring and evaluation to adapt policies to local needs and contexts.	Maintenance of benefits in an ongoing manner.

This table illustrates how stunting control policies can be formulated and evaluated based on the principles of maqoshid al-Shariah to protect lives, offspring, and property, with the ultimate goal of creating a healthy, productive, and sustainable generation. Regular policy evaluation and adaptation are essential to ensure that policies remain relevant and effective in the face of evolving challenges.



**Figure 2. Child Weight Weighing**

## METHODOLOGY

Research methods for optimizing public policies in stunting prevention, based on the Maqoshid principle, can be carried out through both qualitative and quantitative approaches. This research will begin with a literature study to understand the context of stunting and the principles of Maqoshid al-Shariah, and how they align with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities). These SDGs will guide the analysis of policies that aim to reduce malnutrition, promote good health, and ensure equitable access to nutrition, healthcare, and education [30].

Furthermore, surveys will be conducted in several areas with a high prevalence of stunting to collect data on existing policies, as well as public perceptions of the interventions implemented. This will provide insights into the effectiveness of current policies and highlight potential gaps in achieving the SDGs related to stunting prevention. In-depth interviews with stakeholders, such as government officials, health workers, and community leaders, will provide further insight into the challenges and successes of the policies in addressing stunting, aligning with SDG 3, which focuses on promoting well-being and health for all [31].

Data analysis will use the triangulation method to ensure the validity of the information, cross-checking data from different sources to guarantee reliability. Additionally, policy analysis will be conducted to evaluate the alignment of existing policies with Maqoshid principles, as well as their contribution to achieving the SDGs. This analysis will identify optimal steps that can be taken to increase the effectiveness of stunting control programs and ensure long-term sustainability, in line with the SDGs.

The results of this study are expected to provide policy recommendations based on Maqoshid values and SDGs, contributing to strengthening efforts to combat stunting sustainably and equitably across Indonesia.

**Table 2. Methodology**

Research Stages	Methods Used	Purpose
Literature Studies	Literature review on stunting and maqoshid al-Shariah	Understand the context of stunting and the principle of maqoshid in public policy.
Survey of High Prevalence Areas	Questionnaire survey in areas with high stunting prevalence	Collect data on stunting control policies and public perceptions of existing interventions.
In-Depth Interviews	Semi-structured interviews with stakeholders	Get insights from government officials, health workers, and community leaders on policy effectiveness.
Data Analysis (Triangulation)	Data triangulation (surveys, interviews, literature)	Ensuring the validity and consistency of data for a more accurate picture.
Policy Analysis	Policy evaluation with the principle of maqoshid al-Shariah	Evaluate the suitability of policies with maqoshid principles and identify optimal measures.
Policy Recommendations	Synthesis of data analysis results and policies	Providing policy recommendations based on maqoshid values to strengthen stunting control.

This table simplifies the stages of research conducted to optimize public policy in stunting control, with a focus on the application of the principles of maqoshid al-Shariah in the policy.



Figure 3. Immunization of Children Under Five

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This study identifies several important findings related to stunting control policies in Indonesia, with a focus on the application of Maqashid Sharia principles and their alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The findings include:

1. **The Relationship between Nutrition and Maternal and Child Health:** Policies oriented to the fulfillment of nutrition for toddlers, as well as optimal maternal health, are proven to be in line with the principle of life protection (*hifdzun nafs*). Adequate nutritional intake contributes directly to children's physical and mental growth, as well as preventing health problems that can interfere with their development. This finding aligns with SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), which focuses on ensuring access to adequate nutrition and promoting sustainable agriculture for all [32].
2. **Public Awareness:** Increasing public awareness of the importance of balanced nutrition and good health practices is also one of the focuses of stunting control policies. Effective education helps the community understand the impact of stunting and the importance of their role in prevention. This aligns with SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), which emphasizes the importance of education, awareness, and behavior change in improving health outcomes [33].
3. **Access to Clean Water and Sanitation:** Policies that ensure access to clean water and good sanitation are important elements in maintaining the quality of life of future generations. This is in line with the purpose of Maqashid Syariah in protecting offspring (*hifdzun nasl*) and maintaining public health in general. It also contributes directly to SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), ensuring the availability of water and sanitation for all, particularly in rural and underserved areas [34].
4. **Holistic Approach:** Research emphasizes the need for a holistic approach in stunting control. Policies not only focus on health aspects but also consider social, economic, and environmental dimensions to be able to create more sustainable solutions. This approach aligns with SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities), as it calls for inclusive and equitable interventions that ensure no one is left behind, especially vulnerable populations [35].

The results of this study confirm that stunting control in Indonesia requires comprehensive and integrated public policies, which are in line with the principles of Maqashid Syariah. The focus on *hifdzun nafs* and *hifdzun nasl* shows that maintaining the health of individuals and offspring is a top priority. These goals align directly with SDG 3, which calls for ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all, especially children [36].

1. **Implementation of Nutrition-Based Policies:** Handling stunting must involve providing adequate nutrition through government programs, such as supplementary feeding and routine monitoring of children's health. This policy should synergize with public

education to increase nutrition knowledge. These efforts contribute to SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) by improving food security and nutrition for vulnerable populations [37].

2. Sanitation and Environmental Health: Policies that ensure access to clean water and proper sanitation are strategic steps to reduce stunting rates. With a clean environment, the risk of infection and disease can be minimized, thus supporting the growth and development of toddlers. This aligns with SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), which aims to provide safe water and sanitation for all [38].
3. Community and Institutional Roles: The success of stunting control programs depends not only on government policies but also on active community participation and collaboration with various institutions, both government and non-government. Collective awareness and joint action can strengthen the impact of implemented policies. This is in line with SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), which emphasizes the importance of partnerships and collaboration to achieve the SDGs [39].
4. Integrated Approach: To achieve optimal results, stunting control policies need to consider economic aspects, such as increasing family income, as well as social aspects that support welfare. Integration between sectors will create an environment conducive to healthy and productive generational growth. This comprehensive approach aligns with SDG 1 (No Poverty) and SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), which aim to reduce poverty and promote economic development, creating an environment where children and families can thrive [40].

Thus, the optimization of public policies in stunting prevention in Indonesia must prioritize a Maqashid Sharia-based approach, which not only focuses on health but also on social and environmental welfare as a whole. By integrating the SDGs, these policies can contribute to broader global goals while addressing the local issue of stunting and ensuring long-term sustainability.

Stunting remains a multidimensional challenge that undermines human development and national progress. The uploaded study emphasizes that tackling stunting requires not only technical interventions but also holistic, value-based frameworks. The integration of Maqashid Sharia principles with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) creates an innovative approach to rethinking public policy in stunting prevention. From the perspective of Maqashid Sharia, two core objectives—*hifdzun nafs* (protection of life) and *hifdzun nasl* (protection of offspring)—are central. These align with SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) and SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), both of which highlight nutrition, maternal health, and child growth as vital foundations for human well-being. Stunting threatens not only individual health but also societal prosperity by perpetuating cycles of poverty, illness, and reduced productivity. By embedding Maqashid Sharia values into policy, governments can address both the spiritual and material dimensions of human welfare.

The analysis in the document further underscores the significance of social justice in stunting prevention. High prevalence often correlates with poverty, rural isolation, and limited access to clean water and sanitation. This echoes SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation) and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities). An inclusive, equity-driven approach ensures that the most vulnerable groups are prioritized, in line with the Islamic principle of *adl* (justice). Another critical insight is the call for integrated, cross-sectoral policies. Stunting cannot be solved solely through health interventions; it requires coordinated action across education, economy, environment, and community empowerment. This resonates with SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), which stresses collaboration among government, communities, and institutions. Policies that harmonize multiple sectors create sustainable outcomes by reinforcing synergies among nutrition, healthcare, education, and sanitation .

The study also highlights sustainability (*istidama*) as an essential dimension. Temporary measures may yield short-term progress but fail to eradicate stunting fundamentally. Long-term strategies, anchored in Maqashid Sharia and SDGs, ensure continuity and

intergenerational benefits. Incorporating monitoring and evaluation systems grounded in ethical values is another novel aspect, broadening success indicators beyond statistics to include holistic well-being. In conclusion, the analysis shows that optimizing stunting prevention policies requires a paradigm shift—from fragmented, technical measures to holistic, value-driven strategies. By integrating Maqashid Sharia and SDGs, public policies can foster inclusive, ethical, and sustainable solutions, securing healthier future generations while contributing to global development goals.

## CONCLUSION

Stunting in Indonesia is a serious challenge that requires comprehensive and measurable public policies. Based on the principles of Maqashid Sharia, policies must focus on the protection of the soul (hifdzun nafs) and descendants (hifdzun nasl). The results of the study show that an approach oriented toward fulfilling nutrition, maternal and child health, and increasing public awareness is highly relevant and in line with the goals of Maqashid Syariah, as well as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), and SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation). Access to clean water, a healthy environment, and improved sanitation also play crucial roles in improving the quality of life for future generations. These factors are directly aligned with SDG 6, which aims to ensure access to safe water and sanitation for all. Therefore, the optimization of stunting control policies must be carried out with a holistic approach that incorporates not only the health and nutritional aspects but also the social, economic, and environmental dimensions. This will ensure that the solutions implemented are sustainable and effective, contributing to the achievement of broader global goals such as SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), fostering collaboration and inclusivity in policy-making. By integrating the principles of Maqashid Sharia with the SDGs, public policies can create long-term, sustainable solutions for stunting prevention, ensuring the health and welfare of future generations in Indonesia.

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## Author Contribution

All authors contributed equally to the conceptualization, literature review, methodology, analysis, and writing of this study. Each institution supported the academic collaboration by providing insights into Maqashid Sharia and SDGs frameworks.

## Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interest regarding this study. No financial, institutional, or personal relationships influenced the results or interpretations.

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