

**RDI URBAN REFUGEES RESEARCH GROUP
SPF Proposal 2021**

Advancing knowledge on social integration of refugees in transitory context

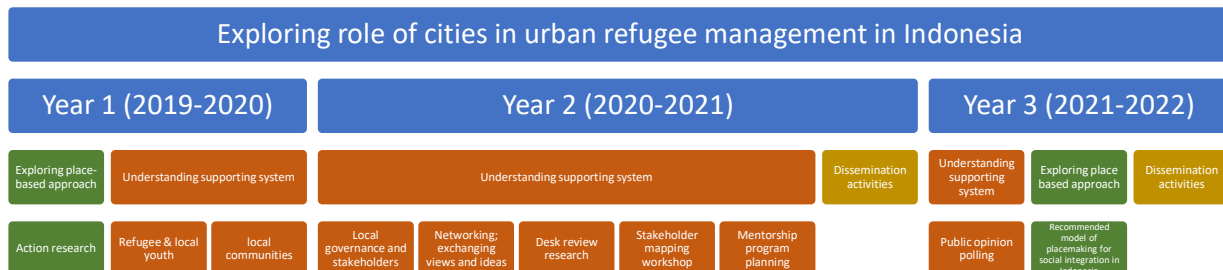
1. Background

The influx of refugees is becoming a global issue. One in every 113 people is now either an asylum seeker, internally displaced person, or a refugee escaping conflict, violence or human rights violations (UNHCR, 2015). Indonesia, a non-signatory country to the 1951 Refugee Convention or its 1967 Protocol, is also experiencing a rising number of refugees from Afghanistan, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and others transiting in its urban areas (UNHCR Indonesia, 2016). In average, refugees spend more than three years in the country while waiting for their settlement application outcome – repatriated to a third country or returned to their origin country. However, the extended waiting period lacks structured programs to bridge the interaction between refugees and locals.

2. Synching three years of research

This third year research builds from our research in the last 2 years: on placemaking for social integration in 2019 and refugee stakeholder management in Indonesian cities in 2020. The idea was developed based on the umbrella mission of RDI-UREF research, which is to explore the role of cities in welcoming refugees under a limited regulation framework in Indonesia as a transit country. The role of cities may include that of the government institution, non-government institution, and local communities. We also learn from the practices of cities in other transit countries, mainly in Southeast Asia.

Over the years since 2019, we use two main pathways to achieve the said umbrella mission, i.e., by exploring a place-based approach to support social integration and by understanding the supporting ecosystem. Our research focuses on a community level out of three levels of analysis in understanding the supporting system and place-based approach (i.e., society/state, community, and individual).



In 2019, we conducted action research with a placemaking approach with refugee and local youths and learning to understand refugee management governance in Makassar. Some key takeaways were that in the case of Makassar, social integration could not be attained organically. It takes collaborative efforts from the government and non-state actors to facilitate the process; hence, identifying different stakeholders on refugee management in Indonesia as a protection actors and supporting ecosystem for social integration. Our research also shows the potential of placemaking as an approach for social integration of refugees and host communities in transitory context.

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic situation in 2020-2021, we continued the exploration by holding webinar series on refugee management, inviting various stakeholders on refugee management. For a more in-depth understanding of stakeholders' dynamics, power, and interests in cities, we further conducted a stakeholder mapping workshop by engaging prominent Indonesian refugee researchers. Throughout the year, we also conducted exhaustive literature reviews and produced an annotated bibliography on urban refugee management in Indonesia and Southeast Asia. Results from 2020 research provides us with deeper understanding of the complexity of refugee management dynamics between different level of government, as well as between different stakeholders, that impacts how it is delivered at a municipal level in the context of non-signatory countries to the 1951 Refugee Convention. From these processes, we learned that refugee protection in Indonesia has been relying much on non-state actors. Despite the goodwill of the local government, there is a lack of awareness to anticipate various issues that could emerge in the near future and a gap of science-based policy to welcome and protect the rights of refugees under the limited regulation framework.

That summarizes the two-year research by RDI-UREF on the supporting ecosystem for social integration in cities, focusing on the government and non-state actors. Exploring the refugee management and governance in specific cities in Indonesia, and in other countries as well, allows us to better understand the context in which we can employ placemaking as an approach for social integration and develop the methodology to better suit the local context. In the third year we propose to conduct research activities based on our two pathways. On the understanding supporting system pathway, we propose to conduct public opinion polling (survey). On the place-based approach pathway we propose to conduct literature review on placemaking to build a placemaking model that can be useful for social integration in Indonesia. The survey is essential for two reasons: first, public opinion matters in Indonesian policymaking, the survey's result will be valuable in supporting research-based policymaking on refugee management, both at the local and national level. Also, the survey will be a valuable input for the UNHCR's initiative of comprehensive solutions for refugees in Indonesia. Second, up until now, there is no public opinion polling on the context of migration/refugees has been conducted in the Indonesian public. Several non-profit organizations have been conducting surveys to refugee communities concerning their livelihood in Indonesia; this survey will make up the whole picture as this survey will gather Indonesian communities' perceptions on possible integration options.

Place-based research will still be explored through a desk review of literature and practices before the next placemaking action research activity. We expect that this proposed research project results will provide evidence and recommendations to support better protection for refugee rights in cities that can be useful as a support study for the government's policymaking.

3. Third year research objective

The research project in 2021 aims to advance our understanding on social integration of refugees and host communities in transitory context. There are two specific objectives:

1. Advance our knowledge on placemaking for social integration in the context of forced displacement by further reviewing the use of the methodology in other countries. Key questions are:
 - a. How does the practice and recent development of the methodology on placemaking or place-based approach for social integration in forced displacement context look like?
 - b. Is there any different in the use of placemaking methodology in destination and in transit countries?
2. Survey (polling) to portray Indonesian publics readiness for refugees' social integration. UNHCR Indonesia is seeking the government's permit to allow refugees access to opportunities for self-reliance through education, skills development, and income-generating activities. Government apparatuses' current narration to fend off UNHCR offered solution is that the public is disagreed to accept refugees to integrate with the locals due to the cultural barrier and security concerns. The survey will confirm or counter such narrations with an empirical study on the public perception toward refugees living among them. In turn, the survey can be used as supporting evidence for future government's policymaking and the implementation of UNHCR's comprehensive solution in Indonesia. The survey will also assess public readiness to share places with foreign residents (refugees and asylum seekers) in their city to prepare for future placemaking activities. The survey will explore the main questions as follows.
 - a. How do public in the selected cities percept and understand the general migration trend and forced migration?
 - b. What are public in the selected cities' opinion toward refugees in their cities?
 - c. What are the public in the selected cities' opinion if refugees and asylum seekers are given access to livelihood (work, education and healthcare)?
 - d. What are the public in the selected cities' opinion if the refugees and asylum are given opportunities to involve in creating shared space for all residents in the city?

4. Project Description

Although the pandemic situation is not over, Indonesia started to slowly introduce an ease of restriction in certain period and cities. We expected the ease of restriction will happen more often in the next 6 to 12 months. Therefore, our activities for this year are designed to be a hybrid mode, with some activities

are online and some others will make use of RDI network in the study location or employ local hiring for field survey.

Activity:

1. Desk-based review on placemaking literatures and practices

This activity will focus on literature review on placemaking around the world, more specifically on placemaking or place-based approach to encourage social integration of refugees and host communities. Included in this activity is a public webinar on placemaking in forced displacement context and a virtual networking session with other organizations with expertise in placemaking in general or in placemaking for peacemaking. This activity is expected to advance our understanding of the potential of placemaking as a way to encourage social integration in transit countries, especially in Southeast Asia, and to present us with recommendation for further development of the placemaking methodology that was started in our 2019 research.

2. Public opinion polling (survey) in 2 cities

This activity will include the following as part of the survey method.

- a. Multistage random sampling method to 390 respondents with the margin of error of +/- 5% and at 95% confidence level.
- b. Respondent selections are staged as follows: 1) Raw data from the latest population obtained through the latest national census data from Indonesian Statistics Body (BPS); 2) Selection of 10 village/sub-district from the city with proportional method; 3) From each village/sub-district five neighborhood (RT) will be selected using Kish Grid method; 4) In each selected neighborhood 10 families will be selected using Kish Grid method; 5) In each selected family one person will be selected using Kish Grid method as the respondent.
- c. Face-to-face interview guided by a questionnaire
- d. Survey quality control: enumerators are at least final year university students (has been vaccinated) and receive training/workshop before the survey. Interviews are systematically monitored by the field leader and team leaders. Each team leader will lead ten enumerators. Team leaders will be present in the field during survey and conduct spot checking (checking the honesty of enumerators by checking it with respondents after data collecting) to ensure data accuracy.
- e. Data will be cleaned before coding
- f. Data analysis

The outcome of this activity is a public opinion polling report of each city that will be shared with relevant stakeholders (the government, UNHCR, IOM, and the media). The compilation of the three reports will be used as data to form a policy brief and an academic paper. For policy brief and academic paper, the survey will be completed with media analysis (using content analysis as the methodology), interviews, and desk-based research. The survey result will also be used as a base for RDI UREF's future placemaking activities.