

POLICIES ON THE HANDLING OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS/REFUGEES IN INDONESIA¹

1. Introduction

Various conflicts in our homeland since the multi-dimensional crisis and the struggles for reform have resulted in waves of IDPs/refugees² being dispersed throughout Indonesia.

The numerous efforts by the central/local government, together with the Indonesian people and international community have until now failed to provide adequate solutions. Concurrent with the improving of the social and political situation of the nation and the moving-forward of the economy, it is felt that now is the appropriate time to immediately finish the management of IDPs/refugees in Indonesia.

It is necessary to find breakthroughs, without sacrificing humanitarian principles, to immediately end the problems of IDPs/refugees.

2. Current Conditions

- a. The total number of IDPs/refugees, present in 20 provinces, is 286,944 families or 1,337,503 persons, according to the reports of the governors in their capacity as the heads of the Executive Coordinating Unit for Disaster Management and the Handling of IDPs (Satkorlak PBP). The number is changing all the time and tends to increase.
- b. The huge number of IDPs/refugees in turn has created other, more complex problems. It is deemed necessary to sharpen the preventive and remedial efforts, to be conducted in a synergic and coordinated way, accompanied by firm actions.
- c. The majority of IDPs/refugees are sheltered in emergency tents, barracks, dormitories, meeting halls, stadiums, and other public facilities. The rest stays in homes of families or their own accommodation.
- d. The government and the people have provided emergency assistance for almost 3 years, in the form of food, clothing, shelters (barracks/tents), medicines and health services, clean water, sanitation, educational and religious services, etc.
- e. Although the Governor, as head of the Satkorlak PBP, is entrusted with full responsibility to handle the problems, the central government continues to provide special assistance, including food and shelter from the Ministry of Social Welfare; medicines and health services from the Ministry of Health; emergency shelter, clean water, sanitation, building materials as stimulants, and infrastructure at relocation sites from the Ministry of Housing and Regional Infrastructure; construction aid and new relocation facilities, including allowance money, from the Ministry of Manpower and Transmigration; as well as other programme or activity assistance from other government ministries or offices. Meanwhile, the local government may also explore and receive assistance from the communities and from national and international organisations.

¹ Unofficial translation provided by OCHA

² The Indonesian term "Pengungsi" is used to signify both internally displaced persons and refugees.
(*translator's note*)

3. Current Problems

- a. The handling of IDPs/refugees problems has become more complex. It is not only a humanitarian concern, but also linked to political, economic, social, cultural, religious and security affairs. The longer the IDP problem remains unsolved, the more complex it will become, and in the end it will threaten the government process and national development.
- b. Disharmony and lack of coordination among government officials on the other hand, and between them and national and international organisations, and community potentials, have caused moral and material lost opportunities.
- c. Jealousy and dissatisfaction between IDPs/refugees and local communities have occurred, caused by a feeling of injustice, which tend to cause new problems and conflicts. These must be avoided and eliminated.
- d. A sizeable amount of funds has so far been disbursed, along with time and energy, which should be used for other poor communities, who represent a larger percentage.

4. Policies and Strategy

- a. National Policies
 - 1) Accelerating the handling of IDPs/refugees is done through 3 (three) consecutive priority patterns with IDPs/refugees in the shelter sites, as follows:

Pattern 1 (Return):

To return the IDPs/refugees to their normal life, which means the IDPs/refugees return to their places of origin in peace. This can be achieved with a strong willingness from the part of the IDPs/refugees, the readiness of the local communities to accept their return, and facilitation support by the government. The most important effort needed to achieve this is to create a feeling of security and comfort, as well as the strengthening of reconciliation guided by relevant government officials. Necessary funding includes stimulant assistance for every IDPs/refugees to restart his life and renovations of facilities in their places of origin.

Implementers: Ministry of Social Welfare, local government.

Pattern 2 (Empowerment):

To give the IDPs/refugees opportunity to start a new life within an existing community, with assistance and facilitation from the government, whether in terms of employment or facilities to make it easier for them to earn a living. It is necessary to provide the IDPs/refugees with skills or capital to enable them to stay on their feet.

Implementers: State Minister for Cooperatives and Small-Medium Enterprises, Ministry of Manpower and Transmigration, local government.

Pattern 3 (Resettlement)

To resettle the IDPs/refugees to a new site through a relocation programme, by insertion or local transmigration. This will require a significantly higher budget to clear land, build houses, build public facilities, provide farming tools and equipment, and an allowance for a period of time. A pattern supported by agricultural or plantation programmes has a very good prospect for the IDPs/refugees in the future.

Implementers: Ministry of Manpower and Transmigration, Ministry of Housing and Regional Infrastructure, local government

2) The handling of IDPs/refugees is expected to be completed by the end of December 2002.

b. Management Strategy

- 1) In principle, the handling of IDPs/refugees is to be conducted and is the responsibility, through a 'one-gate' policy, by the Governors as Heads of Satkorlak PBP in their respective provinces. If several provinces are affected, then efforts will be facilitated by Bakornas PBP.
- 2) The technical ministries/offices at the central level, through the coordination of Bakornas PBP, will act as the Technical Manager/Supervisor in their respective sectors.
- 3) The aim is to terminate assistance in the form of rice and side-dish money by the end of December 2001, and to empty emergency barracks/shelters in accordance with the implementation of Patterns I and II.

5. Budget

- a. To implement the above-mentioned programmes a budget is needed to achieve all its objectives, which would need to be flexible to suit the conditions of the different regions.
- b. The estimated budget cost for the handling of IDPs/refugees according to Patterns I, II and III in the main areas is attached.
- c. Several countries, international organisations, and UN agencies are willing to assist this programme.

6. Closing

Through the above policies and strategy, it is hoped that the fundamental handling would end the problem of IDPs/refugees. Follow-up guiding efforts will be implemented through usual channels of various government programmes to enrich the life of the people toward a better, prosperous living.
