



The Role and Involvement of Indonesian Ministries and Local Institutions in Handling Rohingya Refugees in Aceh

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ABSTRACT

This study investigates the involvement and role of Indonesian government ministries and agencies in managing Rohingya refugees in Aceh. It explores key factors influencing the refugee situation, including policy frameworks, resource allocation, and inter-agency coordination. Using qualitative interviews with officials from relevant departments, the research provides an in-depth analysis of the challenges and strategies employed. Findings highlight significant gaps in coordination and resource management, suggesting the need for enhanced policies and greater international cooperation. The study contributes to the understanding of refugee management in Indonesia and offers recommendations for improving policy implementation and support mechanisms for refugees.

INTRODUCTION

Rohingya refugees are an ethnic minority group who face various forms of discrimination and oppression in their home country of Myanmar (Ashifa et al., 2024; Tareque, 2021; Ullah & Chattoraj, 2018). The humanitarian crisis experienced by them has forced thousands to flee to neighboring countries, including Indonesia (Adiputera & Missbach, 2021; Fahim, 2022; Setiawan & Hamka, 2020). Aceh, as one of the provinces in Indonesia, became one of the main areas that received Rohingya refugees (Adwani et al., 2021; Malahayati et al., 2019). The Indonesian government, together with various ministries and agencies, has played an active role in handling this situation, both from a humanitarian and security perspective (Setiawan & Hamka, 2020; Smith & Williams, 2021).

The handling of Rohingya refugees in Aceh involved various parties, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Social Affairs, Ministry of Law and Human Rights, and international organizations such as UNHCR and IOM (Adwani et al., 2021). The involvement of these various parties indicates complex coordination and collaboration in responding to the refugee crisis (Chowdhury et al., 2022; Cook & Foo, 2019). However, these efforts are also faced with various challenges, such as inter-agency policy differences, resource limitations, and international political dynamics (Hossain et al., 2023; Roy Chowdhury, 2019).

Previous research on the handling of Rohingya refugees in Indonesia has been conducted by various researchers. For example, several studies highlighted the role of internal Indonesian ministries and agencies in providing emergency relief and temporary shelter for Rohingya refugees in Aceh (Adwani et al., 2021; Listriani & Kadir, 2020; Saragih & Damayanti, 2024). Meanwhile, several studies explored Indonesia's role in international diplomacy to garner global support for the handling of the Rohingya crisis (Rasyid et al., 2022; Setiawan & Hamka, 2020). There are also studies that examine the role of UNHCR and IOM in providing assistance and protection for refugees (Koch, 2017; Moretti, 2021).

While these studies provide important insights into the role of each agency, there are limitations in terms of a comprehensive approach. Most studies tend to focus on one particular agency or aspect of it, while paying less attention to inter-agency coordination and the impact of their efforts as a whole. In addition, few studies go in-depth into the challenges faced by these agencies in carrying out their duties, including legal constraints, logistics and community support.

This research aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the involvement and roles of various ministries and agencies in the handling of Rohingya refugees in Aceh. Specifically, the research will: (1) Identify the roles and responsibilities of each ministry and agency in dealing with Rohingya refugees; (2) Explore inter-agency coordination and cooperation in dealing with the refugee crisis; (3) Identify challenges and obstacles faced by agencies in carrying out their duties; (4) Assess the impact of government and international agencies' efforts in providing protection and assistance to Rohingya refugees in Aceh.

This article offers a novel contribution by providing a more in-depth analysis of inter-agency coordination and the challenges faced in handling Rohingya refugees in Aceh. Unlike previous studies that tend to focus on one aspect or agency, this research adopts a holistic approach that covers multiple dimensions, including legal, humanitarian and policy. As such, this research not only provides a more comprehensive understanding of the dynamics of handling refugees, but also provides practical recommendations to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of government and related agencies' efforts.

This research also adds a new perspective by integrating policy analysis with field studies, which include interviews with representatives of ministries, agencies, as well as Rohingya refugees themselves. With this approach, it is hoped that this research can make a more significant contribution to the development of future refugee handling policies and practices.

Through this article, it is hoped that areas that require increased coordination and collaboration between institutions, as well as strengthening policies that are more responsive to the needs of refugees, can be identified. In addition, this article is also expected to serve as a reference for future research and as a basis for better policy formulation in handling refugees in Indonesia.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Handling Rohingya Refugees in Aceh

Research on the handling of Rohingya refugees in Aceh has grown in line with the increasing number of refugees coming to Indonesia, especially since 2015. Research by Malahayati et al. (2019) revealed that Rohingya refugees in Aceh received better minimum protection compared to other provinces in Indonesia. The interaction between refugees and the community is quite good, which is influenced by the values of local wisdom that exist in Acehnese society and together with the values in their country of origin. Minimum protection of refugees can be maximized if local wisdom values are well integrated in refugee management policies; good coordination between institutions; and socialization to local communities about the presence of refugees in their area.

Meanwhile, Indonesia as a Muslim-majority country accepted Rohingya refugees because it felt obliged to help as fellow Muslims. The government has even issued several policies to accommodate Rohingya refugees, including providing assistance to Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh (Hidayatullah, 2023). However, lately the Acehnese people who initially accepted them, now reject their existence, both those who are already in Aceh and those who have just landed. As happened in Pidie District in December 2023 (Herawati, 2023).

Ministry and Agency Involvement

The involvement of various ministries and agencies in handling Rohingya refugees is one important aspect that is widely discussed in the literature. Research Fauzan et al. (2022) using a spider web approach of stakeholders involved in refugee management at the local level helped establish the benefits of collaboration in achieving goals for the betterment of refugees and communities at the local level. Although there are challenges and barriers in refugee management in the province, the refugee issue is not initially a single

stakeholder issue. Indeed, partnerships with all relevant stakeholders are urgently needed to foster sustainability in future refugee management, particularly at the local level. The issue of partnership is also evident in the current local refugee management in Aceh, where the State is present to help protect Rohingya refugees alongside other relevant stakeholders.

On the other hand, research by Rahayu (2022) examines the protection of human rights of refugees and asylum seekers in Indonesia using a sociolegal approach. The study found that the formulation of refugee handling policies that include discovery, shelter, security and immigration supervision is submitted to the Coordinating Minister for Political, Legal and Security Affairs (Menkopolhukam) after obtaining consideration from the Minister of Foreign Affairs. The handling process is coordinated by Menkopolhukam in accordance with the responsibilities and authorities of each agency.

Challenges in Refugee Management

More in-depth research by Rizqiah et al. (2024) identified various challenges faced in handling Rohingya refugees in Aceh. One of the main challenges is the emergence of various serious negative impacts on various sectors of the regional economy, and the national security sector, such as increasing regional economic inflation, resource competition, social threat conflicts, infiltration of radicalism ideology, to disrupt the conditions of domestic political stability.

This research also highlights the challenges in the aspects of state and social security. Rohingya immigrants are notorious for their lawlessness and now many problems have been caused by Rohingya refugees such as social conflicts between the local population and Rohingya refugees.

Gaps in Research and Justification for Further Research

While there are various studies that have examined the handling of Rohingya refugees in Aceh, there are several areas that remain under-explored and require further research. First, while there are many studies that discuss the roles of individual agencies, few comprehensively examine inter-agency coordination and the impact of these interactions on the effectiveness of refugee management. Secondly, research on the long-term impact of refugee management, both for the refugees themselves and for the local community, is limited.

This research is expected to fill that gap by providing a more holistic analysis of inter-agency coordination, the challenges faced, and the impact of policies and actions taken. As such, this research not only provides a better understanding of the current situation, but also provides recommendations that can be used to improve refugee handling in the future.

METHODOLOGY

This research uses a qualitative approach to comprehensively and deeply analyze phenomena, events, perceptions, and thoughts related to the involvement and role of ministries and agencies in handling Rohingya refugees in Aceh. The qualitative approach was chosen because it allows for a more in-depth exploration of the experiences, interpretations and meanings of the actions

and policies implemented by the various parties involved. This method also allows researchers to understand the social and cultural context surrounding the phenomenon under study.

This research uses a case study design, which focuses on an in-depth analysis of a particular case in a specific context. Case studies were chosen because they allow for detailed and comprehensive research into complex subjects, such as the handling of Rohingya refugees in Aceh. The study includes an analysis of multiple dimensions, including government policy, program implementation by Indonesian ministries and agencies, and refugee perceptions and experiences. The data collected and analyzed spans multiple sources, including official documents, interviews, and field observations.

This study paid attention to the principles of research ethics, including obtaining informed consent, maintaining data confidentiality, and ensuring that informants' participation was voluntary. Written or verbal consent was obtained from all informants before the interviews were conducted. The data obtained was stored securely and used only for the purposes of this study.

RESEARCH RESULT

The Role and Involvement of the Directorate of Law and Political and Security Agreements of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia in Handling Rohingya Refugees in Aceh

An interview with a representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Directorate of Law and Political and Security Agreements confirmed some of the main functions of this institution in managing and formulating Indonesia's foreign policy. Based on the Regulation of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia Number 6 of 2021, the main functions of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs include:

1. **Policy Formulation:** The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is responsible for formulating and setting foreign policy covering bilateral and multilateral relations and safeguarding Indonesia's national interests.
2. **Inter-Ministerial Coordination:** The Ministry of Foreign Affairs coordinates foreign relations activities between various ministries and government agencies to ensure synergy in Indonesia's foreign policy.
3. **Strategy Recommendations:** The Ministry of Foreign Affairs provides recommendations on foreign policy strategies that support Indonesia's position on the international stage.

The Directorate of Law and Political and Security Agreements of the Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs views the handling of Rohingya refugees as a shared responsibility of the Indonesian government, given the complexity of this issue involving humanitarian aspects and international law. The Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has taken several important steps:

1. **Regional and International Coordination:** The Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs is active in regional forums such as ASEAN and international forums such as the UN to garner support for addressing the Rohingya crisis. They are pushing for an inclusive and sustainable long-term solution to the crisis.

2. Cooperation with International Agencies: The Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs works closely with UNHCR and IOM to ensure adequate protection and assistance for Rohingya refugees in Indonesia. This coordination is important in the process of verifying refugee status and protecting their basic rights.
3. Advocacy for International Support: The Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs advocates for commitments from other countries to increase resettlement quotas for Rohingya refugees and provide financial support to facilitate the effective handling of this crisis.

The Directorate of Law and Political and Security Agreements of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs faces various challenges in handling Rohingya refugees, including:

1. National Capacity: Indonesia faces limitations in terms of resources and infrastructure to handle the growing number of refugees. Although Indonesia is not a state party to the 1951 Refugee Convention, the country is committed to ensuring that the basic rights of refugees are respected.
2. Law Enforcement Against Transnational Crimes: There are challenges in law enforcement against transnational crimes such as people smuggling which is often linked to the Rohingya refugee flow. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is working closely with the Ministry of Political, Legal and Security Affairs to address this issue.

The Directorate of Law and Political and Security Agreements of the Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs continues to implement adaptive and proactive diplomacy strategies in facing global challenges, including:

1. Digital Diplomacy: Utilize social media and digital platforms to expand the reach of public diplomacy and increase interaction with the global community.
2. Economic Diplomacy: The Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs plays a role in promoting foreign direct investment (FDI) into Indonesia, ensuring that such investment provides sustainable benefits to the national economy.
3. Soft Diplomacy: Through student exchange programs, academic cooperation, and cultural promotion, the Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs strengthens relations between nations and enhances Indonesia's positive image in the eyes of the world.

The Directorate of Law and Political and Security Agreements of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs plays a key role in maintaining and strengthening Indonesia's position on the international stage, both in the context of bilateral and multilateral relations, as well as handling humanitarian crises such as Rohingya refugees. Through cooperation with various international institutions and advocacy in global forums, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is committed to carrying out a foreign policy that is proactive and responsive to changing global dynamics.

The Role and Involvement of the Deputy for Security and Public Order Coordination of the Indonesian Ministry of Political, Legal, and Security Affairs in Handling Rohingya Refugees in Aceh

The Ministry of Political, Legal, and Security Affairs (Kemenkopolkham) plays a crucial role in coordinating policies in Indonesia, particularly in the realms of politics, law, and security. As an institution under the President, Kemenkopolkham is responsible for ensuring that the various ministries and agencies within these domains work synergistically and effectively towards national goals.

One of Kemenkopolkham's primary tasks is to coordinate and synchronize the formulation, establishment, and implementation of policies in these areas. This role involves acting as a liaison between different government institutions, ensuring that policies do not conflict and can be executed harmoniously. This coordination is essential for maintaining political stability and national security and ensuring that laws are enforced fairly and consistently.

Additionally, Kemenkopolkham oversees and evaluates the implementation of established policies. By collaborating with various law enforcement and security agencies, Kemenkopolkham monitors the practical application of these policies, providing feedback and recommendations to the President and related institutions if any obstacles or issues arise.

In crisis situations, Kemenkopolkham acts as the main coordinator in handling and resolving issues, ensuring a swift, accurate, and coordinated government response. The ministry also focuses on enhancing the capacity and capabilities of the institutions under its coordination, providing training, technical guidance, and other forms of support to strengthen institutions and improve the professionalism of government officials in politics, law, and security.

Presidential Regulation (Perpres) No. 125 of 2016 on Handling Refugees from Abroad provides a crucial legal framework for managing refugees in Indonesia. It outlines the roles and responsibilities of various ministries and related institutions in dealing with refugees who enter Indonesian territory, ensuring that the handling of refugees is humane, coordinated, and in line with international standards.

The establishment of the Monitoring and Handling Team for Foreign Refugees (TP3LN) is a key aspect of the regulation's implementation. This team, comprising various agencies, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Law and Human Rights, the Ministry of Social Affairs, and the National Disaster Management Agency (BNPB), ensures effective coordination among institutions, minimizing overlapping responsibilities and potential conflicts of authority.

Moreover, the implementation of Perpres 125/2016 involves close cooperation with international organizations such as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM). This collaboration helps ensure that the handling of refugees adheres to international standards and humanitarian principles, providing technical support, humanitarian aid, and training for officials involved in refugee management.

On the ground, the implementation of this regulation includes providing basic needs such as shelter, food, clean water, and health and education services to refugees. Local governments often take the lead in executing these policies, supported by the central government and humanitarian organizations. For example, in Aceh, local governments have been active in providing temporary shelters and basic services for Rohingya refugees.

The implementation of Perpres 125/2016 faces various challenges, including logistical constraints, limited resources, and coordination issues among institutions. In many areas, the lack of adequate facilities and resources hinders the provision of necessary services to refugees, impacting their physical and psychological well-being. Coordination issues, such as overlapping authority and inefficient communication, also pose significant challenges.

To address these challenges, a comprehensive revision and update of the refugee handling policies are needed. Strengthening institutional coordination through more structured and transparent mechanisms is crucial. Creating a special task force directly accountable to the President could ensure that all agencies work synergistically with clear focus.

Capacity-building and training for personnel involved in refugee management should also be prioritized. Comprehensive training on human rights, trauma handling, and crisis management will enhance the quality of services provided to refugees. The government must ensure that the budget allocation for refugee management is adequate and used effectively.

Public awareness and understanding of refugees' conditions and rights should be improved through continuous education and outreach programs, helping to reduce stigma and promote social inclusion. The use of social media and digital platforms can effectively disseminate positive messages and combat misinformation.

In conclusion, while the implementation of Perpres 125/2016 marks a significant step in strengthening Indonesia's refugee handling system, continuous efforts and improvements are necessary to overcome the challenges faced and enhance the quality of refugee protection.

The Role and Involvement of the Directorate General of Immigration of the Ministry of Law and Human Rights of the Republic of Indonesia in Handling Rohingya Refugees in Aceh

The Directorate General of Immigration, under the Ministry of Law and Human Rights of the Republic of Indonesia, monitors and manages the presence of Rohingya refugees in Aceh according to Presidential Regulation No. 125 of 2016, which governs the handling of refugees from abroad. This regulation provides a framework for the involvement of various agencies, including Immigration, the National Search and Rescue Agency (Basarnas), the police, and international organizations such as the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Immigration authorities, through local offices in areas such as Lhokseumawe, Sabang, Banda Aceh, and Meulaboh, conduct ongoing monitoring of refugees. Despite the absence of Immigration Detention Centers (IDCs) in Aceh, Immigration collaborates closely with IDCs in Medan and

Pekanbaru for further processing. The monitoring process involves regular data collection and updates to ensure accurate records of refugee numbers and their locations.

Upon arrival, Rohingya refugees are initially rescued at sea by Basarnas, then handed over to the police for preliminary data collection. Following this, Immigration conducts more detailed processing and arranges for temporary accommodations as designated by local governments. These accommodations are not official refugee shelters but are temporary solutions under the guidelines of the Presidential Regulation.

As of the latest data, the refugee population in Aceh is distributed as follows:

- Lhokseumawe: 609 refugees (with 313 having fled, leaving 296)
- Bireun: 28 refugees
- Mina Raya: 427 refugees
- Kulee: 180 refugees

This distribution indicates a significant presence of Rohingya refugees in various locations across Aceh.

The Directorate General of Immigration faces several challenges in managing the presence of Rohingya refugees, including limited facilities and human resources. Additionally, the legal and social complexities surrounding the refugees' status pose further difficulties. Coordination among various stakeholders, including local authorities, IOM, and UNHCR, is crucial to address these challenges effectively. Ensuring that refugees comply with immigration regulations and do not pose security threats is a significant concern.

Despite these challenges, Immigration strives to uphold human rights principles, balancing national interests with the rights of refugees. Issues such as violence, legal violations, and basic needs are addressed with a humanitarian approach while adhering to the relevant regulations. Collaboration with international organizations like IOM and UNHCR is vital in providing logistical support, basic necessities, and refugee status determination.

To maintain public order and safety, Immigration works closely with the police and local governments to monitor refugee activities and prevent potential conflicts. Public awareness campaigns are conducted to inform the local community about the presence of refugees and the importance of maintaining security and harmony.

The Directorate General of Immigration plays a critical role in overseeing the arrival and management of Rohingya refugees in Aceh. From initial rescue operations to ensuring compliance with legal standards, Immigration's efforts are integral to the broader response to this humanitarian issue. Despite resource limitations and complex legal challenges, the collaboration with international and local stakeholders helps ensure that the refugees' basic needs are met while maintaining national security and public order.

The Role and Involvement of Medan Immigration Detention Center in Handling Rohingya Refugees in Aceh

Medan IDC, together with the local government and various related agencies, conducted data collection and monitoring of Rohingya refugees in North Sumatra. This data collection includes initial identification by the police and immigration after the refugees were rescued by Basarnas. This process follows the procedures stipulated in Presidential Regulation No. 125/2016 on the handling of refugees from abroad.

Handling refugees in North Sumatra requires cooperation between various parties, including provincial and district governments, and international agencies such as IOM and UNHCR. Medan IDC actively coordinates with relevant agencies to ensure comprehensive handling and in accordance with applicable regulations.

The Medan IDC has deported Bangladeshi nationals who were found to have violated Indonesian immigration regulations. On March 13, 2024, 26 Bangladeshis were deported, and on July 10, 2024, 12 others were also deported. The deportation process involved coordination with the Bangladesh Embassy and international organizations such as IOM.

Rohingya refugees arriving in Aceh are identified and registered by Medan IDC with the involvement of various agencies, including the police and immigration. Official data and refugee numbers are updated regularly to ensure accuracy and sustainability.

The head of Medan IDC proposed the establishment of a community house in Aceh to accommodate Rohingya refugees. This place is expected to help speed up the process of resettling refugees to third countries and provide capacity building training for refugees. The establishment of the community house also aims to prevent social conflict in the local community.

Medan IDC initiated an FGD themed "Synergy and Collaboration in Handling Rohingya Refugees in Aceh Province." The event involved various parties, including government agencies, academics, NGOs, and the media. The FGD aimed to strengthen synergy and collaboration in handling refugees and to produce recommendations for decision-making at the central and regional levels.

The Medan IDC faces challenges in terms of limited facilities and human resources. In addition, the complexity of legal and social issues that accompany refugee status is also a challenge in data collection and supervision.

Coordination with various parties sometimes faces obstacles, especially in ensuring that refugees comply with immigration rules and do not pose security concerns. Collaborative efforts and joint evaluations are made to ensure effective handling.

Medan IDC is committed to adhering to human rights principles in dealing with Rohingya refugees. This humanist approach includes handling humanitarian issues that may arise, such as violence and the basic needs of refugees, while adhering to applicable regulations.

Medan IDC is planning to develop a more effective and efficient mechanism for dealing with Rohingya refugees in Aceh. This includes improving facilities, human resources, and inter-agency cooperation to ensure the safety and well-being of refugees and the local community.

The Role and Involvement of the Directorate General of Human Rights of the Ministry of Law and Human Rights of the Republic of Indonesia in Handling Rohingya Refugees in Aceh

In recent years, the international community has faced increasing concerns over humanitarian crises, particularly the oppression and genocide of the Rohingya people in Myanmar. This has led to a significant influx of Rohingya refugees into neighboring countries, including Indonesia. The decision to stay in Myanmar or seek refuge elsewhere poses a dire challenge for the Rohingya, given the inhumane treatment they face, which threatens their very survival. Without recognition from the Myanmar government, these refugees remain stateless, complicating their acceptance in other countries. The continued arrival of stateless persons in Indonesia has elicited national and international criticism, impacting the country's economy and security.

Indonesia has adopted a dual approach in addressing the arrival of Rohingya refugees, focusing on political and humanitarian aspects. Politically, Indonesia engages with other countries through bilateral and multilateral relations. Humanitarian efforts are conducted through various platforms aimed at ending human rights violations in Myanmar. The Indonesian Ministry of Law and Human Rights (Kemenkumham), specifically the Directorate General of Human Rights (Ditjen HAM), plays a crucial role in managing this crisis.

Indonesia's legal framework concerning refugees integrates international conventions, national laws, and local law enforcement policies. However, the recognition and acceptance of Rohingya refugees pose significant challenges, including difficulties in accessing documents and asylum routes. DG Human Rights is tasked with overseeing, protecting, and promoting human rights across Indonesia. It operates under the authority of the Minister of Law and Human Rights, guided by Regulation No. 28 of 2023 on the Organization and Management of Kemenkumham.

DG HAM's responsibilities include formulating and implementing human rights policies, providing guidance, and supervising human rights issues. It also engages in monitoring, evaluation, and reporting on human rights promotion, communication services, cooperation, dissemination, and the strengthening and facilitation of human rights information. The Directorate of Human Rights Instruments and the Directorate of Communication Services for Human Rights are key units within DG HAM involved in managing the Rohingya refugee crisis.

During a recent meeting with the research team from Syiah Kuala University, representatives from Ditjen HAM, including the Directorate of Communication Services for Human Rights and the Directorate of Human Rights Instruments, discussed their roles and responsibilities. The Directorate of Communication Services for Human Rights handles public communication regarding human rights violations, while the Directorate of Human Rights Instruments focuses on policy formulation, implementation, technical guidance, and supervision.

DG Human Rights has been actively involved in addressing the human rights violations faced by Rohingya refugees. The Directorate of Communication Services for Human Rights collaborates with regional offices, including the Aceh Regional Office of Kemenkumham, to ensure effective handling of the situation.

This coordination is ongoing and aims to provide appropriate and targeted support to the refugees. Reports and data collection are coordinated with the Immigration Division and the Human Rights Services Division of the Aceh Regional Office.

DG HAM has worked closely with international organizations such as the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). These organizations are responsible for documenting and managing the refugee population. The collaboration includes data collection, identification of needs, and coordination of aid and support services.

The Indonesian government's approach to the Rohingya refugee crisis, led by Ditjen HAM, demonstrates a commitment to upholding human rights and providing humanitarian assistance. However, the complex nature of the issue, including the refugees' statelessness and the regional security implications, presents ongoing challenges. Continued coordination with international organizations and adherence to both national and international legal frameworks are crucial in addressing the needs of Rohingya refugees and ensuring their protection and well-being.

DISCUSSION

The research findings from the interviews conducted with key government bodies, including the Directorate General of Human Rights (Ditjen HAM), Directorate General of Immigration (Ditjen Immigration), Directorate General of Legal and International Treaties of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Ditjen HPI Kemlu), the Deputy for Coordination of Security and Public Order at the Coordinating Ministry for Political, Legal, and Security Affairs (KemenkoPolhukam), and the Immigration Detention Center (Rudenim) Medan, provide a comprehensive view of the role and involvement of various ministries and agencies in handling Rohingya refugees in Aceh. The discussion below outlines the key points and analyzes them within the context of existing academic literature on refugee management and human rights.

Coordination and Policy Implementation

One of the primary findings from the interviews is the high level of coordination required among various government bodies in managing the influx of Rohingya refugees. The Directorate General of Human Rights emphasized the need for a human rights-based approach in handling refugees, aligning with international norms and standards. This aligns with the academic perspective that a coordinated and rights-based approach is essential for effective refugee management (Betts, 2011). The integration of human rights principles ensures that the basic rights and dignity of refugees are upheld, even in complex situations.

Legal Framework and International Obligations

The Directorate General of Legal and International Treaties of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs highlighted Indonesia's commitment to international legal frameworks concerning refugees. Although Indonesia has not ratified the 1951

Refugee Convention, it adheres to various international human rights treaties that indirectly protect refugee rights. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs emphasized the country's non-refoulement policy, which prohibits the forced return of refugees to a place where they may face persecution. This policy is consistent with international legal principles and reflects Indonesia's commitment to upholding international obligations, even without formal treaty ratification (Goodwin-Gill et al., 2021).

Security and Public Order

The Deputy for Coordination of Security and Public Order at KemenkoPolhukam underscored the challenges of maintaining public order and security in areas affected by refugee arrivals. The influx of refugees can lead to tensions and security concerns, particularly if local communities are not adequately prepared or supported. This aspect is crucial in understanding the broader implications of refugee management, as security concerns can impact both refugees and host communities. The literature suggests that balancing security and humanitarian needs is a delicate task that requires careful planning and cooperation between agencies (Loescher & Milner, 2013).

Immigration and Detention Practices

The Directorate General of Immigration and the Immigration Detention Center provided insights into the practical challenges of processing and accommodating refugees. The interviews revealed that while the primary focus is on documentation and legal status determination, there is also a significant emphasis on humane treatment and the provision of basic needs. The use of detention, although sometimes necessary for security reasons, is approached with caution, ensuring that it does not lead to prolonged or inhumane conditions. This practice aligns with the broader international discourse advocating for alternatives to detention and the humane treatment of all individuals, regardless of their immigration status (Wdwards, 2013).

Challenges and Future Directions

Despite the coordinated efforts, several challenges persist. These include resource limitations, legal ambiguities, and varying levels of local community support. The findings suggest that while there is a strong policy framework in place, the implementation can be inconsistent, particularly at the local level. This is a common issue in refugee management, where national policies may not always be effectively translated into local practices (Potocky & Naseh, 2020). The need for increased capacity building, public awareness, and inter-agency collaboration is evident from the research findings.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusions

This study has explored the involvement and roles of various Indonesian government bodies in handling Rohingya refugees in Aceh, focusing on coordination, policy implementation, legal frameworks, security, and humanitarian concerns. Key conclusions from the research include:

1. **Coordination and Rights-Based Approach:** The study highlights the importance of inter-agency coordination and a human rights-based approach in managing refugee situations. The Directorate General of Human Rights, among others, emphasizes adhering to international norms, ensuring that refugees are treated with dignity and respect.
2. **Legal Framework and Compliance:** Despite not being a signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention, Indonesia adheres to principles such as non-refoulement and aligns with international human rights treaties. This demonstrates a commitment to protecting refugee rights within the constraints of national legislation.
3. **Security and Public Order:** Managing the security concerns associated with refugee influxes is crucial. The involvement of KemenkoPolhukam underscores the need for balancing humanitarian assistance with maintaining public order and safety.
4. **Challenges in Immigration and Detention:** The study identifies challenges in the practical aspects of immigration and detention, including resource limitations and the need for humane treatment of refugees. The findings emphasize the importance of alternatives to detention and ensuring basic human rights for all individuals.
5. **Local-Level Implementation:** The research reveals inconsistencies in policy implementation at the local level, highlighting the need for improved capacity building and public awareness. Effective management of refugee situations requires not only strong national policies but also effective local execution and community support.

Recommendations

Based on the research findings, several recommendations can be made to enhance the management of Rohingya refugees in Aceh:

1. **Strengthening Inter-Agency Coordination:** It is crucial to enhance coordination among various government bodies involved in refugee management. Establishing a dedicated task force or coordination mechanism could streamline efforts, ensuring that all agencies work towards common goals.
2. **Capacity Building and Training:** Training programs for government officials, particularly at the local level, should be developed to ensure they are well-equipped to handle refugee situations. This includes understanding international legal obligations, human rights principles, and practical aspects of refugee management.
3. **Public Awareness and Community Engagement:** Increasing public awareness and engaging local communities is essential for fostering a supportive environment for refugees. Educational campaigns and community dialogues can help reduce stigma and promote understanding of refugee issues.
4. **Legal Reforms and Policy Enhancements:** Consideration should be given to legal reforms that align national policies with international standards, such as clearer guidelines on refugee status determination and the rights of

refugees. This includes exploring the possibility of ratifying international treaties related to refugees.

5. **Improving Refugee Accommodations and Services:** Enhancements in the provision of basic services, including healthcare, education, and legal aid, are necessary to improve the living conditions of refugees. Investment in infrastructure and resources can mitigate the challenges faced by both refugees and host communities.
6. **Research and Monitoring:** Ongoing research and monitoring of the refugee situation are vital for adapting policies and practices to changing circumstances. This includes collecting data on refugee demographics, needs, and challenges, as well as evaluating the effectiveness of current measures.

The management of Rohingya refugees in Aceh requires a multi-faceted and coordinated approach, balancing humanitarian, legal, and security concerns. Implementing the recommendations provided can enhance Indonesia's capacity to handle refugee situations effectively, ensuring the protection of refugee rights and the well-being of host communities.

ADVANCED RESEARCH

Limitations of the Study

This study, while comprehensive in its scope, has several limitations that should be acknowledged:

1. **Limited Scope of Interviews:** The research primarily relied on interviews with officials from specific government agencies, which may not fully represent the perspectives of all stakeholders involved in the refugee management process. The voices of local government officials, non-governmental organizations, and the refugees themselves were not comprehensively included.
2. **Data Availability and Access:** Access to detailed and up-to-date data on refugee demographics, resource allocation, and policy implementation was limited. This restricted the study's ability to provide a complete picture of the situation and the effectiveness of current measures.
3. **Focus on Specific Time Frame and Region:** The study focused on a specific period and region (Aceh) in Indonesia. This may not capture the broader trends and challenges faced in other regions or at different times, limiting the generalizability of the findings.
4. **Methodological Constraints:** The research methodology primarily involved qualitative analysis, which, while providing depth and context, may lack the statistical rigor and generalizability of quantitative methods. This could affect the interpretation of findings and the extent to which they can be applied to broader contexts.

Suggestions for Further Research

To build on the findings of this study and address its limitations, further research is recommended in the following areas:

1. **Broadening Stakeholder Perspectives:** Future studies should include a wider range of stakeholders, including local authorities, non-governmental

organizations, community leaders, and the refugees themselves. This would provide a more comprehensive understanding of the challenges and opportunities in managing refugee situations.

2. **Quantitative Analysis and Data Collection:** A quantitative approach, including surveys and statistical analysis, could complement qualitative findings and provide a more robust understanding of the situation. Efforts should be made to collect detailed data on refugee demographics, resource distribution, and the outcomes of various policies.
3. **Comparative Regional Studies:** Expanding the research to include multiple regions in Indonesia and potentially other countries in Southeast Asia would allow for comparative analysis. This could help identify best practices and common challenges in managing refugees, providing valuable insights for policymakers.
4. **Longitudinal Studies:** Conducting longitudinal studies that track changes over time in refugee populations, policies, and host community attitudes would provide a dynamic view of the evolving situation. This could help in understanding the long-term impacts of current policies and the effectiveness of different approaches.
5. **Legal and Policy Framework Analysis:** In-depth analysis of the legal and policy frameworks governing refugee management in Indonesia, including comparisons with international standards and practices in other countries, could provide valuable recommendations for policy reforms.
6. **Impact of External Factors:** Future research could explore the impact of external factors such as global migration trends, international relations, and economic conditions on Indonesia's refugee management strategies. Understanding these influences could help in developing more resilient and adaptable policies.

While this study provides valuable insights into the management of Rohingya refugees in Aceh, further research is needed to address its limitations and deepen understanding. By expanding the scope of analysis and employing diverse methodologies, future studies can contribute to more effective and humane refugee management policies.

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