Beyond Government: The Role of Civil Society in Empowering Refugee Communities in Jakarta Greater Area to Fulfill Their Rights

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Background

Refugee issue is multidimensional and complex. It involves government and civil society; it brings economic, social, cultural, and environmental issues to ensure their wellbeing. Unfortunately, it has not become one of the national development priorities in Indonesia. After Presidential Regulation (Perpres) No. 125 year 2016, the government made no other regulation or policy to sustain their wellbeing. Therefore, challenges to access their rights appear, and inequality emerges. The situation shows that the refugee issue is somehow neglected and needs action from other actors who can fill or at least minimize the gap between refugees and their rights.

UNHCR reported that there are 13,416 persons in June 2021. In their monthly statistical report, it explains that refugees live



Qualitative

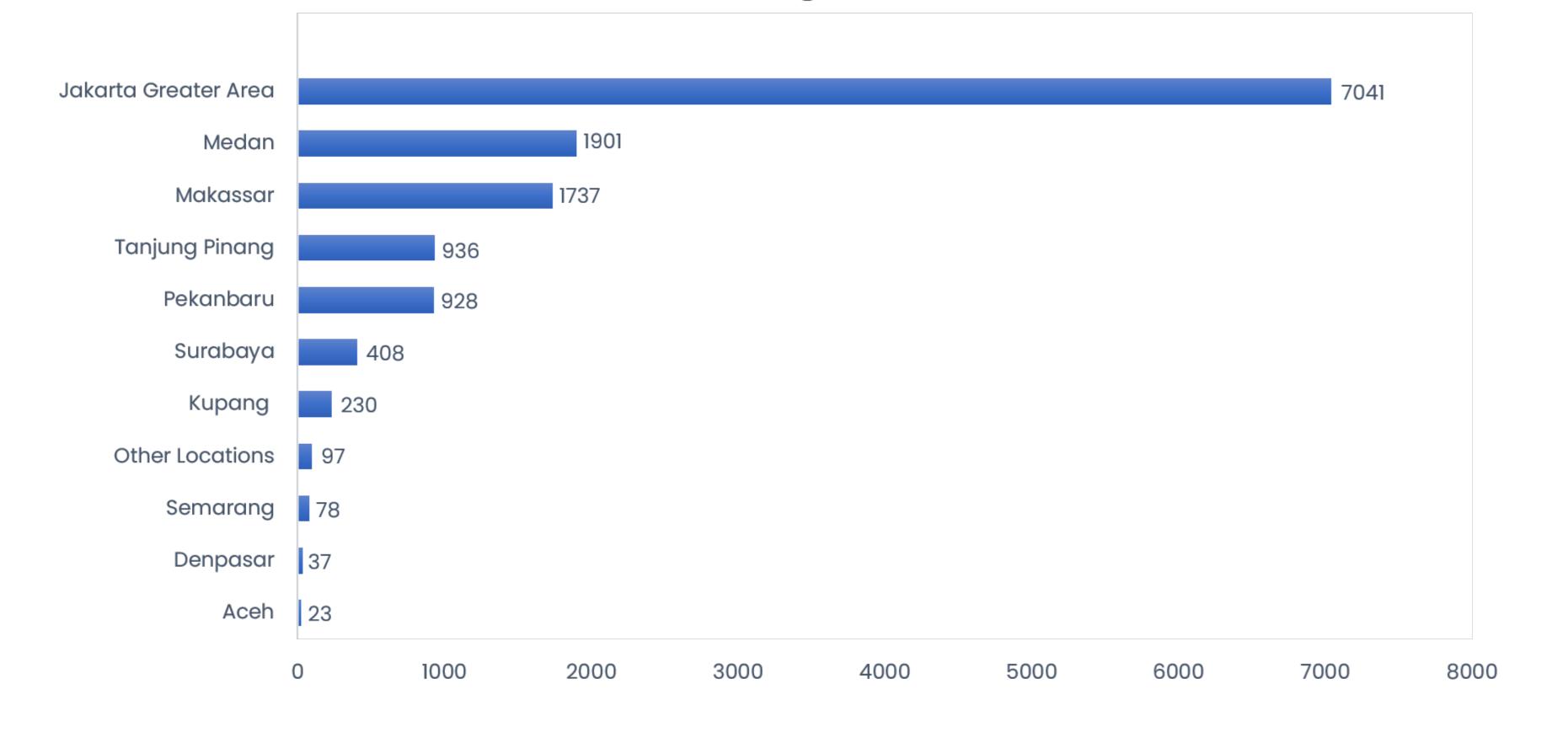
Research

Research Question

How civil society empowers refugee communities

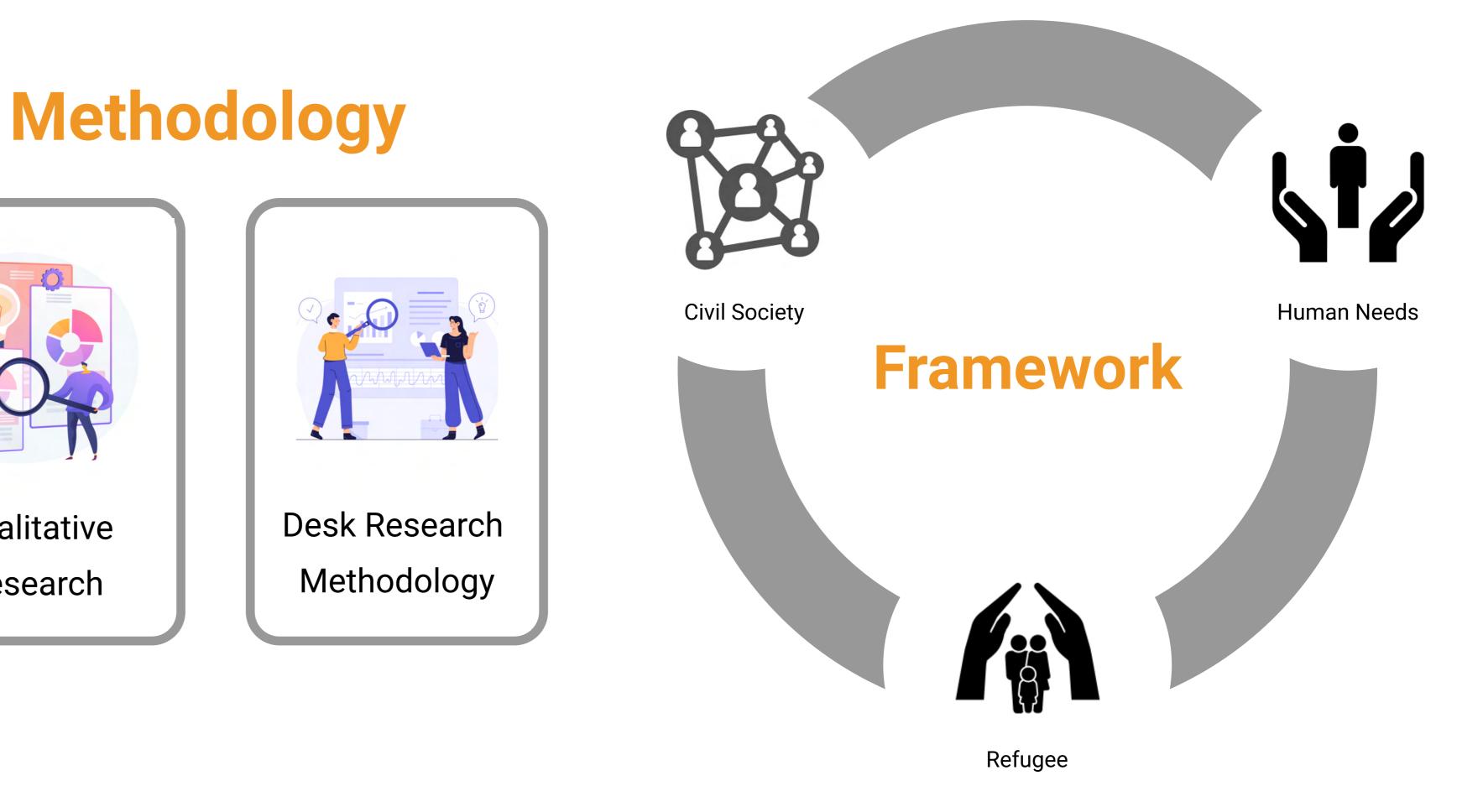
in several cities, and most of them, 7,041 persons, live in Jabodetabek.

Location of Persons Registered With UNHCR



This fact is positively correlated with the emergence of community empowerment movements carried out by civil society in the Jabodetabek.

- in Jakarta Greater Area to fulfill their basic rights?



This research is a qualitative research using desk research methodology to prove the connections of the frameworks and the practices.

Early Findings

Liberty Society



Church World Service



A social enterprise in fashion industry providing livelihood for women refugees

A non-government organization (NGO) providing shelter, allowance, living supplies, healthcare, and education and vocational training for refugees

Cisarua Refugee Learning Center



The first refugee established and managed school in Indonesia aiming to share educational opportunities and resources for refugees

Help For Refugees



Founded by Afghani refugees, this community offers informal education, basic health services, and other learning opportunities.

Conclusion

- The movements of civil society in responding to voluntary and forced migration poses unique challenges.
- There are examples of programs and contexts where refugees are served and may even complement to gain their right.
- We need analytical tools based upon proven theories or best practices that might help us to see and understand that civil society movement which might be one of the effective ways and strategies to achieve a better society in the absence of government participation.

