Empowering refugees in livelihood opportunity program in the agricultural sector

Y S Desiandri*, Suhaidi, Ediwarman and J Leviza
Faculty of Law, Universitas Sumatera Utara, Medan, Indonesia.

E-mail: *yati_sd@yahoo.com

Abstract. Refugees who are in Indonesia, do not have a job and only expect the cost of living provided by UNHCR and IOM. These costs are insufficient to meet daily needs. To provide opportunities to increase the cost of living, there is a livelihood opportunities program which aims to provide opportunities for refugees to have a more decent life. The agricultural sector can empower refugees in the livelihood opportunity program. By providing opportunity for refugees, it is hoped that the agricultural sector can increase the amount of production and make the lives of refugees more prosperous and can increase costs for their daily needs. The formulation of the problem in this research is how to enable the agricultural sector to empower refugees in the livelihood opportunity program. The research method used in this writing is a normative study. The research results show that it is difficult for the agricultural sector to empower refugees because there are no legal rules governing it. The recommendation in this study is, it needs to be a special regulation that regulates refugees to carry out livelihood opportunity program in the agricultural sector that has potential in the Indonesian economy.

1. Introduction

In the opening of the Refugee Convention in 1951, it was stated that the state is required to providing protection for the basic rights of refugees and to provide freedom without discrimination. According to the UN Convention in 1951 article 1 on the status of refugees is: “A refugee is someone who has been forced to flee his or her country because of persecution, war, or violence. A refugee has a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group. Most likely, they cannot return home or are afraid to do so. War and ethnic, tribal and religious violence are leading causes of refugees fleeing their countries”.

While in Indonesia, each month the refugees get assistance from IOM which amounts to about 1,200,000 IDR per person per month. And while in Indonesia, this daily assistance is insufficient to meet the daily needs of the refugees [1]. Unable to work to earn money, the refugees spend their days waiting for compensation. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) hopes that Indonesia will give them permission to earn income so they can live more properly [2].

In articles 20 and 22 of the international convention in 1951, it was stated that every refugee will be able to enjoy the rights to social welfare, such as the right to work, housing, and get wages from the work they do. However, this is difficult to realize because Indonesia is not a country that has ratified the International Conventions on Refugees in 1951 and the Protocols in 1967. The handling of refugees in Indonesia is regulated in Presidential Decree number 125 of 2016 concerning Handling
Foreign Refugees, however this Presidential Decree does not regulate permits for refugees to work in Indonesia.

UNHCR is looking for the possibility to work with the government to form a project that can at least become a place to hone skills and empower refugees [3]. To increase the daily costs of refugees, there is a Livelihood Opportunity Program. Livelihood opportunity program aims to increase the welfare of refugees. Livelihood opportunity can be carried out in various sectors of work, one of which is the agricultural sector.

The agricultural sector is still the leading sector in Indonesia. Apart from the large amount of workforce absorbed, this sector is still able to provide a sizable income contribution to the national economy [4]. The agricultural sector is a food producer to meet the basic needs for population, as a source of income, as a contributor to foreign exchange and a spur for the industrialization process [5].

Based on this background, there is a problem formulation in this research, namely how can the agricultural sector empower refugees in the livelihood opportunity program?

2. Methods
The methodology used in this research is normative. By analyzing legally, so that there will be empowerment of refugees in Indonesia in the agricultural sector in livelihood opportunity program.

3. Results and discussion

3.1. Livelihood opportunities for the refugees
The Refugees find themselves in situations where their own government is unable or unwilling to guarantee their physical safety and most basic human rights, they are forced to seek protection from the international community. Ensure that refugees receive safety and access to their rights and seek livelihood opportunities [6].

In terms of handling refugees, Indonesia is only a transit country before they are placed in third countries. The refugees have been waiting for this without certainty about access to education and work. Lack of access to work and education is of course very detrimental to refugees because refugees can wait up to 25 years to be transferred to the destination country. Access to work is crucial to support the lives of refugees. Without access to jobs, refugees are forced to rely on detention centers and donations from international organizations [7].

With the trend of populism in many countries, the possibility of placement to destination countries is getting smaller. On the other hand, the global crisis will keep refugees coming to Indonesia. There needs to be a long-term solution in handling refugees. One of them is by providing job access. With IOM's budget cuts, it is increasingly difficult for refugees who occupy detention centers to meet basic needs [8].

Refugees in Indonesia find it difficult to live in this country. They do not have a work permit, and do not receive social assistance from the Indonesian government. The Indonesian government allows the refugees and asylum seekers to stay in Indonesia as long as they have registration documents from the United Nations Office, namely from the UNHCR. UNHCR persuades the Indonesian government to help foreign refugees find income and survive without depending on assistance. Because, so far, the refugees live in a very difficult life, even being forced to homeless [9].

UNHCR is currently working with the government and other partners so that refugees are allowed to share their talents, their skills in such a way that they can also help them to develop the economy of the surrounding community (especially in shelter). This is important so that they do not rely solely on the helping hand of residents to make a living. Living from alms is not a way that can be sustained in the medium term. Refugees are just like ordinary people, they need to empower themselves. They have skills, talents, knowledge that they can share with the local community [10].

Livelihood is an obligation of every individual regardless of any background such as race, caste, ethnicity, religion, gender and socio-economic background. Obtaining a form of business activity that
can provide a livelihood in all its dimensions is economic and entrepreneurial. Human resources are the main tools used to obtain or produce results in the form of cash or non-cash goods [11].

The right to work legally will help refugees to accumulate their social resources and capital, so that later they can help them find solutions that suit their individual circumstances. Having a legal status means having the path to decent work. Refugees also need to earn a living and experience working to support their livelihoods.

In international law, there is the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights which was adopted by General Assembly Resolution 2200 A (XXI) dated December 16 in 1966. In article 2 paragraph (3) of this Covenant, it is stated that developing countries, with due regard to Human rights and the national economy, can determine to how far they can guarantee the economic rights recognized in this Covenant to foreign citizens. Whereas in article 6 paragraph (1) it is stated that the State parties to the present Covenant recognize the right to work, including the right of all people to the opportunity to earn a living through work which they freely choose or accept, and will take adequate steps to protect this right.

3.2. Empowering refugees in the Indonesian agricultural sector

Indonesia is known as an agricultural country, which relies on the agricultural sector. The agricultural sector includes several sub-sectors, namely the food crops sub-sector, the horticulture sub-sector, the fisheries sub-sector, the livestock sub-sector and the forestry sub-sector. As one of the dominant sectors, it really requires a lot of manpower. As an important sector, the development of the agricultural sector is aimed at increasing agricultural production in order to meet domestic food and industrial needs, increase exports and increase farmers' income, expand employment opportunities and promote equity as well as become the basis of society growth [12].

The role of the agricultural sector in Indonesia national economic growth is also increasingly important and strategic, this can be seen from its increasing contribution. In 2014, the Agriculture Sector contributed around 13.14% to the national economy and in 2017 it increased to 13.53%. During the 2013-2018 period, the additional accumulated value of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in the agricultural sector that was able to be generated reached 1,375 trillion IDR, and the GDP value of the Agricultural Sector in 2018 increased by 47% compared to 2013 [13].

The agricultural sector is a sector that requires a lot of labor. In Indonesia, development in the agricultural sector is directed at increasing agricultural production in order to meet domestic food and industrial needs, increase exports and farmers' income, expand employment opportunities, and promote equity [14]. The agricultural sector can empower refugees in livelihood opportunity in the agricultural sector. By providing opportunity for refugees, it hopes that by involving refugees in the agricultural sector, the lives of the refugees will be more prosperous and can increase costs for their daily needs through the livelihood opportunity program.

For example, Syrian refugees in Turkey work in agriculture. Their empowerment to work in the agriculture and food sector is the result of cooperation between FAO, the Turkish Ministry of Agriculture and funded by the Japanese Government. Its aim is to provide training and help workers earn a source of income from the agricultural sector. This recruitment of workers is not only specifically for Syrian refugees, but is also open to local residents. It is hoped that the training program for refugees can improve the job skills of the refugees, especially in the fields of agriculture and food [15].

Refugees residing in the United States are given a “new roots” program. This program is a program for refugees who have backgrounds as farmers in their home countries. The 'New Roots' program seeks to use vacant land in rural areas for these refugee farmers to work on, while providing additional expertise [16].

Empowering refugees in the agricultural sector has been carried out by UNHCR Indonesia. Taken example of a refugee from Ethiopia, in which a course to learn organic farming in a garden is managed by a UNHCR colleague, The Learning Farm (TLF), in Cianjur Regency, West Java. Founded in 2005 by World Education, TLF is a non-governmental organization that aims to equip disadvantaged youth
across Indonesia to become more independent, responsible and contribute to the environment through organic farming and love nature. TLF also teaches refugees financial science, communication and entrepreneurial marketing. Good skills to prepare them to enter the job market [17].

Empowerment for refugees in Indonesia can be realized through the livelihood opportunity program. This program develops the capabilities and skills of refugees and helps restore the dignity and independence of the refugees. If the agricultural sector takes part in empowering refugees in the livelihood opportunity program, then: refugees can help the agricultural sector to increase the amount of production, The agricultural sector contributes to the welfare of refugees in the livelihood opportunity program, The agricultural sector took part in humanitarian action against refugees, Refugees gain experience and expertise in the agricultural sector, It is hoped that refugees can apply their knowledge in farming when they have been placed in the destination country. Reducing the budget burden borne by UNHCR and IOM. However, there are obstacles if the agricultural sector empowers refugees in the livelihood opportunity program: There is no legal rule regulating the livelihood opportunity program for refugees, The agricultural sector will pay for the refugees, Indonesia is not a country that ratified the International Convention on Refugees in 1951, thus it has no obligation to provide employment opportunity for refugees.

Articles 24, 17 and 18 of the 1951 International Convention regulate the right to work for refugees, which stipulates that refugees can work for the right to work for their interests in the agricultural, industrial, handicraft and trade sectors as well as establishing trade and industrial companies. However, because Indonesia has not ratified the Convention, it is difficult to fulfill the right to work for refugees. However, there is nothing wrong for the agricultural sector to provide livelihood opportunity for refugees.

Indonesia should be able to allow refugees to have the opportunity to work which is the right of every human being. Moreover, Indonesia has ratified the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in 1966 to become Law No. 11 of 2005 concerning Ratification of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. In the explanation of article 2 of Law No. 11 of 2005 states that it is the obligation of States parties to take steps to achieve the realization of the rights recognized in this Covenant in stages and ensure the implementation of these rights without any distinction. Developing countries with due regard to human rights and their national economies can determine how far these countries will guarantee the economic rights recognized in this Covenant for foreign nationals.

By ratifying it into a law, Indonesia should be bound by the contents of the International Covenant. Thus, the hope that refugees can be empowered in the agricultural sector in the livelihood opportunity program and can be implemented on the basis of the legal basis of article 2 and article 6 of the 1966 International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Moreover, the agricultural sector is still a mainstay in absorbing labour and maintaining economic stability in Indonesia.

4. Conclusions

While in Indonesia, every month the refugees receive assistance from IOM, but this daily assistance is not enough to meet the daily needs of the refugees. Articles 20 and 22 of the 1951 international convention stated that refugees have the right to work. However, this is difficult to realize because Indonesia is not a country that ratified the International Convention on Refugees in 1951 and the Protocol in 1967. UNHCR proposed Livelihood Opportunity. Livelihood opportunity aim to increase the welfare of refugees. Livelihood opportunity can be carried out in various sectors of work, one of which is the agricultural sector. Indonesia as a country known for agriculture, which relies on the dominant agricultural sector, requires a lot of labor. Development in the agricultural sector is directed at increasing agricultural production in order to meet domestic food and industrial needs, increase exports and farmers' income, expand employment opportunity, and promote equity. The agricultural sector can empower refugees in livelihood opportunity in the agricultural sector. By providing opportunity for refugees, it hopes that by involving the refugees in the agricultural sector, the lives of
the refugees will be more prosperous and can increase costs for their daily needs. Turkey and the United States have carried out empowerment for refugees in the agricultural sector. The empowerment of refugees in the agricultural sector has also been carried out by UNHCR in Indonesia. However, because Indonesia did not ratify the 1951 International Convention, it is difficult to fulfill the right to work for refugees. However, there is nothing wrong for the agricultural sector to provide livelihood opportunity for refugees. There needs to be a particular regulation that regulates refugees to carry out livelihood opportunity programs in the agricultural sector that have potential in the Indonesian economy. With the ratification of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in 1966 it became Law No. 11 of 2005 can be a legal basis to provide employment opportunity for refugees including working in the agricultural sector. If this can be implemented, it is necessary to issue specific regulations regulating the implementation of work permits for refugees in Indonesia. There needs to be a special regulation that regulates refugees to carry out livelihood opportunity program in the agricultural sector which have an effect on the Indonesian economy. The burden on UNHCR and IOM can be reduced and demonstrates Indonesia's commitment to refugees whose status are unclear. Involving the agricultural sector in this livelihood opportunity program shows that the agricultural sector also plays a role in raising the dignity of refugees. The implementation of livelihood opportunity program in the agricultural sector for refugees can provide additional funds for the daily needs of refugees, increase experience and hone the skills of refugees, the agricultural sector can directly increase the amount of production if this program is implemented properly and provides good benefits as well for the agricultural sector.

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