

## Refugees in Indonesia: A Fact Sheet (for parents and guardians)

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- There are nearly 14,000\* refugees currently in Indonesia, fleeing war or persecution.
- Refugees in Indonesia come from more than 45 countries, but nearly half are from Afghanistan\*. Many of those seeking asylum from Afghanistan are Hazara, a violently persecuted minority group.
- Refugees cannot seek asylum or be granted permanent stay in Indonesia. This is because Indonesia chose not to become a signatory of the '1951 UN Convention', relating to the status of refugees, or its '1967 Protocol'. Indonesia also does not have its own national refugee status determination system (a system to decide who has a legitimate claim to asylum)\*.
- This means, whilst in Indonesia, refugees cannot legally work, receive public health care, attend schools or marry.
- Refugees in Indonesia are the wards of UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency. The UNHCR protects refugees from 'refoulement' (being forced to return to their home country). The UNHCR also works to find a country of asylum, or offers to return refugees to their home country if it becomes safe.\* However, the UNHCR does not provide support for basic needs such as food, water, housing, health care or schooling, whilst refugees are waiting for a country to grant them asylum.
- Due to changes in refugee policies of many wealthy countries in 2014 (including Australia, often the target for refugees traveling through Indonesia), it is now much harder for a refugee to find asylum. As such, many refugees in Indonesia have to wait for years, or even decades, for a country to offer them asylum.
- Some refugees in Indonesia qualify for support of IOM (International Organization for Migration). In this case, they are given shelter in controlled accommodation. They are also given a small monthly food budget.
- However, many do not qualify for this support and are left chronically waiting for many years without any financial or practical support, relying entirely on donations, or help from family members in other countries.

\* Data summarized from the UNHCR website.

## The refugee community in Kalideres, who we are working to support:

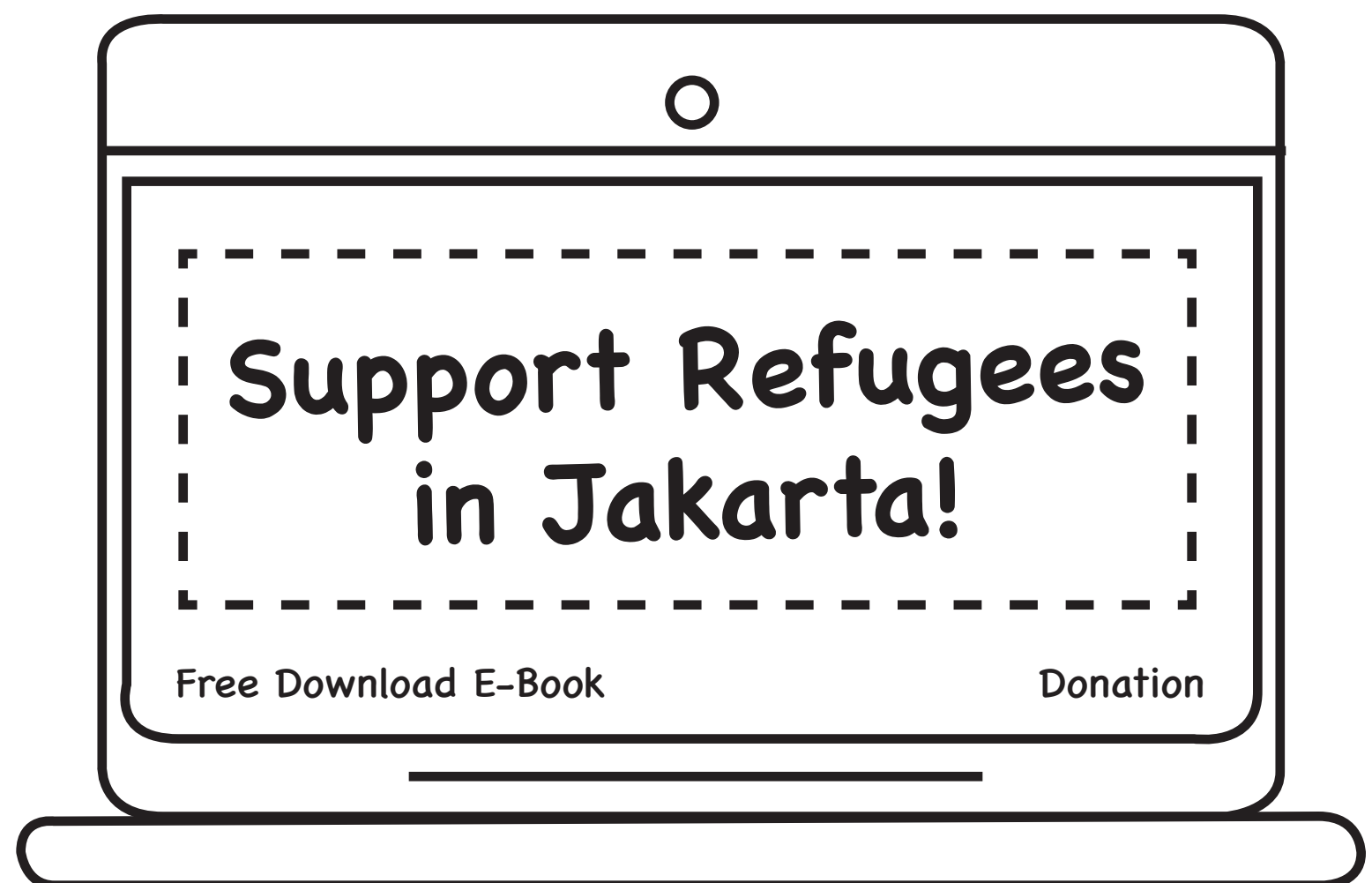
- In 2019, 1300 refugees began protesting about their conditions and the many years they have to wait for asylum, camping on the street outside the UNHCR office in Jakarta.
- In order to clear the streets, the city government of Jakarta offered the protestors temporary residence in an old military building in Kalideres.
- Now, 8 months later, a community of more than 230 people remains in this building. They have no support for food, water, electricity, schooling or medical care. They have been surviving entirely on ad-hoc donations from people who visit their community.
- In response to the coronavirus pandemic, they have been provided with some masks and soap from the city governor of Jakarta and the UNHCR. But they still have no help with their basic needs such as food, water, electricity, health care and sanitary products, which they need to stay healthy and clean during this time.
- With the rest of the city in lockdown, it has become even harder for them to get the ad-hoc support and donations they usually rely on to survive. They now face a crisis.



### **Camel & Eagle Look for a New Home**

A colouring book in solidarity with refugees in Indonesia during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Self-published,  
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