Impact of refugee women's entrepreneurship on socioeconomic outcomes and well-being: A scoping review

Research
Areej Al-Hamad¹, Molly Hingorani¹, Yasin M. Yasin², Kateryna Metersky¹

¹Daphne Cockwell School of Nursing, Toronto Metropolitan University, Toronto, Canada; ²Department of Nursing and Midwifery, University of Doha for Science and Technology, Doha, Qatar

Corresponding author: A. Al-Hamad (areej.hamad@torontomu.ca)

ABSTRACT

Purpose: The aim is to contribute to a broader and more nuanced understanding of the experiences and challenges these women face as entrepreneurs, to aid in the development of more effective supportive measures. Method: A scoping review methodology guided by the framework proposed by Arksey and O'Malley and later refined by Levac et al., and PRISMA ScR reporting guidelines was conducted. We identified and synthesized themes from twelve pertinent articles that met our review criteria. Findings: Four overarching themes were identified that included (1) the contextual influences on entrepreneurship, (2) the constraints and barriers faced by refugee women entrepreneurs, (3) the resilience and resourcefulness displayed by these women, and (4) the outcomes of their entrepreneurship. These themes reveal the complex interplay of factors that shape the social, economic, and health impacts of entrepreneurship on refugee women. Discussion and Conclusion: This study underscores the urgent need for more rigorous scholarly attention to the area of refugee women’s entrepreneurship. While themes identified in this study align with previous literature, they have not been thoroughly addressed within a consolidated research framework in existing peer-reviewed studies. Therefore, our review is instrumental in augmenting the existing knowledge base and illuminating new directions for future scholarly investigation.

KEYWORDS
Entrepreneurship, Entrepreneurship Outcomes, Refugee Women, Resilience

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INTRODUCTION

The experiences of refugee women in the realm of entrepreneurship have gained increasing attention in the literature, with growing interest in its potential to improve the outcomes of refugee women in their new host country (Alkhaled, 2019; Almohammad, Durrah, Alkalaf, et al., 2021; Erdirenceli & Erturk, 2023). These experiences may include structural and social barriers that impede the women’s access to the host country’s labour market such as language barriers, lack of recognition of formal credentials, and gendered household responsibilities (Senthanar et al., 2021). Given the persistent adversity experienced by refugee women, many develop resilience by pursuing entrepreneurship when integrating into their host country as a response to limited formal employment options (Shepherd et al., 2020). Entrepreneurship’s flexibility and economic potential can be a viable option for refugee women to overcome financial insecurity (Senthanar et al., 2021). Although pursuing entrepreneurship entails significant complexities, the literature highlights refugee women’s potential to navigate complex and unpredictable entrepreneurial environments even in the face of numerous hardships.
and setbacks (Shepherd et al., 2020). Shepherd et al. (2020) suggest that refugee entrepreneurs’ resilience acts as both an antecedent and consequence of entrepreneurial activities, illustrating a reciprocal relationship where each factor influences and reinforces the other. Huq and Venugopal (2021) propose that resilience precedes refugee women’s entrepreneurship — women must already possess the resilience necessary to overcome labour market constraints.

Refugees often encounter more entrepreneurship barriers than other immigrant groups do (Wauters & Lambrecht, 2008). Many scholars emphasize entrepreneurship as an empowering avenue for refugee women to exercise personal agency (Astamirov, 2020; Erdirençelebi & Ertürk, 2023; Mora, 2021). They highlight how refugee women draw upon their cultural backgrounds to develop businesses rooted in traditional crafts, foods, or cultural services (Mora, 2021). The intersection of gender, class, ethnicity, and religious identities adds another layer of complexity to their entrepreneurial narratives (Adeeko & Treanor, 2022; Astamirov, 2020). For example, a study exploring how female Syrian refugee entrepreneurs exert their agency revealed that the intersection of their identities, class, and background influences the coping strategies they utilized to navigate entrepreneurship (Mora, 2021).

Furthermore, Huq and Venugopal (2021) advocates for re-evaluating self-reliance ideologies from a neoliberal viewpoint to improve policies on refugee women’s employment and integration. Their findings illustrate the complexity of these women’s entrepreneurial experiences, dominated by “push” factors and the essential role of resilience and how true support for starting anew involves providing sustainable economic opportunities backed by solid support systems to ensure success. Further studies on these women could yield valuable insights into the effect of refugee women’s entrepreneurship (Mora, 2021). A scoping review on refugee women’s entrepreneurship is crucial for identifying research gaps and understanding their unique challenges and opportunities. It sheds light on various factors that affect their businesses. By synthesizing existing knowledge, we aim to guide future research and practical interventions, enhancing the contribution of refugee women entrepreneurs to their communities and the broader economy. This scoping review aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the multifaceted dynamics surrounding refugee women’s entrepreneurial endeavours. The study aimed to explore existing knowledge regarding refugee women’s experiences in entrepreneurship and their effects on women’s socioeconomic status and overall well-being in their new countries. Specifically, the review asked, “What is known about refugee women’s experiences of entrepreneurship and the impact of these experiences on their socioeconomic status and well-being in the host countries?”

METHODS

We used a scoping review methodology that was outlined by Arksey and O’Malley (2005) and later refined by Levac et al. (2010). This scoping review also adhered to the PRISMA-ScR (Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic reviews and Meta-Analyses extension for Scoping Reviews) (McGowan et al., 2020) (Table 1) and the five-stage methodology outlined by Arksey and O’Malley (2005) including identifying the design and search problem, finding relevant and pertinent studies, selecting studies, charting the data, and then compiling, summarizing, and presenting the findings. Levac et al. (2010) suggest that the research question should be linked to other purposes to ensure that practicality does not limit the findings of the study. They also highlight practical implications of the review, which improved how this study took shape.

Search Strategies

With the assistance of an academic subject librarian, we conducted a comprehensive electronic databases search. Six databases were searched for peer-reviewed articles published in English from 2011 to 2023, namely SCOPUS, PSYCINFO, Web of Science Core Collection, Academic Search Complete, CINAHL, and Business Source Complete. We next searched Google Scholar for peer-reviewed articles published in English within the same search time frame. The final search explored the reference lists from the included reports. Boolean operators AND/OR were used to narrow or broaden the search using a combination of the key words. We identified a clear set of inclusion and exclusion criteria.
The inclusion criteria for this review encompass all types of study designs related to refugee women, displaced persons, or asylum seekers' entrepreneurship experiences, published in English from 2011 onwards. Excluded are studies not focusing on the specified population, discussing non-entrepreneurial employment models, in languages other than English, published before 2011, uncompleted, or irrelevant to the themes of entrepreneurship and socioeconomic impact.

**Study Screening and Selection**

All results from each database were imported into EndNote version 21. Duplicate publications were removed. Citations initially underwent title and abstract screening to determine whether they fit the inclusion criteria. A group/folder was created in the EndNote library for the papers that met the inclusion criteria. Later, full texts of potentially relevant studies were independently screened, evaluated, and assessed against the inclusion criteria by two of the authors (AA and MH). Each retrieved paper was screened by (AA and MH) against the inclusion/exclusion criteria. The two researchers decided whether to include the study in the review, then recorded the final decisions and justifications for inclusion or exclusion in the study screening spreadsheet. Any discrepancies among the reviewers during abstract and full-text screening were resolved through discussion until consensus was achieved. A Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) flow diagram was used to present the search, screening, and selection of the included studies in this review. Figure 1 represents the entire process.

**Charting, Collating, and Reporting the Results**

We created a data table to assist in data retrieval and extraction. The following categories of information were extracted from each selected article: author(s), year, country of study, aim of the study, study method, sample, and results (Table 2). We grouped findings into themes after careful review of the final selected articles. These groups were determined in relation to the study’s intention and in consideration of fostering the finding’s transferability and presentation. The other two authors, academic health experts, established the themes’ face validity. This validation process ensured that the study’s themes were derived from the intended scope of the study with proper presentation of the reviewers’ interpretation of the data (Piškur et al., 2012).

To ensure the accuracy and usefulness of data in our scoping review, we implement a rigorous process including cross-verification to eliminate duplicates and the removal of retracted studies. This process is crucial for maintaining data integrity and avoiding the double-counting of data. The review prioritizes relevance and applicability of studies to our research questions over the internal validity of individual studies, ensuring all included studies align with our aims. Regular team discussions facilitate a consistent approach to data extraction and analysis, enhancing the reliability and comprehensiveness of our findings. We employ structured data collation, in-depth thematic analysis, visual charting, and elaborate descriptive summaries to organize and interpret data, highlighting areas needing further research.

We also triangulate our findings with existing literature and theoretical frameworks to assess the reliability and comprehensiveness of our data and results. This helps to ensure that our understanding and interpretation of the data are grounded in broader knowledge and evidence. This approach offers a clear and comprehensive understanding of the topic, guiding future research in the field of refugee women entrepreneurship experiences.

Due to the homogeneity in study methods (qualitative studies) and reported findings, a narrative synthesis approach was used to synthesize the findings (Popay et al., 2006). Similar to how conceptual themes are retrieved from qualitative research, variable labels present in the included studies were identified as “themes” (Popay et al., 2006). The theoretical and disciplinary perspectives of health, which all authors practice, as well as refugee women, which is AA’s area of research, informed the development of the final themes. Specifically, our themes-development process was informed by the revised model of entrepreneurship developed by Majid and Koe (2012), the Model of Thought Streams Producing Entrepreneurship developed by Kardos (2012), and the Sustainable Entrepreneurship Business Model developed by Weidinger (2014).

Utilizing Majid and Koe’s (2012) revised model of sustainable entrepreneurship enhances our scoping...
review on refugee women’s entrepreneurship by offering a comprehensive framework that addresses economic, social, ecological, and cultural domains equally. This model is pivotal for analyzing the multifaceted challenges and opportunities refugee women entrepreneurs face, ensuring our review captures the breadth of various factors affect refugee women entrepreneurship. It aligns perfectly with the unique contexts of refugee women, whose entrepreneurial success is measured not just by financial gains but also by their contributions to social inclusion, environmental sustainability, and cultural integration. By integrating this model, we provide a holistic understanding of entrepreneurship among refugee women.

The Model of Thought Streams Producing Entrepreneurship by Kardos (2012) is crucial for our review on refugee women's entrepreneurship, as it situates their ventures at the intersection of entrepreneurship, innovation, and sustainable development. This model underscores the necessity for refugee women entrepreneurs to balance profitability with sustainability—key for enhancing their quality of life and community contribution. By applying this framework, we explore how these entrepreneurs meet sustainability challenges through innovation, reflecting on broader sustainable development goals. This approach not only enriches our review but also resonates with academic, policy, and societal interests, fostering a comprehensive discussion on innovative entrepreneurship as a catalyst for sustainable development through the experiences of refugee women.

Similarly, The Sustainable Entrepreneurship Business Model by Weidinger (2014), which integrates business growth with social value creation, significantly resonates with refugee women’s entrepreneurship. This model’s concept of creating shared value is particularly relevant for refugee women entrepreneurs, who aim to achieve economic independence and contribute to their communities. Their ventures often reflect sustainable entrepreneurship by blending business goals with social improvements, such as fostering community welfare and inclusion. Applying Weidinger’s model illuminates how these entrepreneurs are at the forefront of sustainable development, leveraging their businesses for broader social and economic impacts. This approach not only highlights the unique position of refugee women entrepreneurs in contributing to sustainable entrepreneurship but also underscores the importance of supporting their endeavors as catalysts for positive change.

With these models in mind, we summarized refugee women’s entrepreneurship experiences in a way that acknowledged the power and influence of gender, culture, social systems, structures, and family relationships. Understanding the impact of gender, culture, social systems, and family relationships is crucial for supporting refugee women's entrepreneurship. These factors shape their access to resources, influence societal perceptions, and affect their business decisions and opportunities. Gender roles and cultural norms can limit women's entrepreneurial engagement and dictate their work-life balance, while social and family support plays a key role in their business success. Recognizing these aspects is essential for creating targeted support that addresses the unique challenges refugee women entrepreneurs face, fostering an inclusive environment that enables their economic empowerment and contributions to their host communities.

We also recognize the central role of host countries’ labor regulations, and their contribution to the socioeconomic status and well-being of refugee women and their families. Host countries’ labor regulations significantly impact the socioeconomic status and well-being of refugee women entrepreneurs and their families. These rules dictate the ease with which refugee women can start and run businesses, impacting their access to markets, capital, and support services. Supportive labor policies can empower these women, offering them pathways to economic stability and contributing to their families' well-being. On the other hand, restrictive policies may confine them to the informal sector, limiting their income and growth potential. Therefore, labor regulations are key to the economic integration of refugee women entrepreneurs, influencing not only their business success but also their families' socioeconomic advancement in the host country.

RESULTS

The initial search of databases revealed 224 articles. In total, 167 articles were identified from the search after removing duplicates. After titles and abstract
screening, we found 49 articles that appeared to have potentially applicable information. After full text screening 11 articles remained with one additional article included after the review of the reference lists of the included studies. Thus, 12 studies were deemed relevant to answer the review’s question and were mapped through the extraction table (Table 2).

**Descriptive Summary of the Studies**

The 12 included articles were published between 2016 and 2023, with the majority published recently (Figure 2). All were qualitative in their approach. Articles consisted of eleven qualitative studies with semi-structured interviews and observations (including narrative analysis, case study, and life stories) (Abuhussein, 2022; Adeeko & Treanor, 2022; Al-Dajani et al., 2016; Astamirov, 2020; Dijkhuizen, 2020; Erdirencelebi & Ertürk, 2023; Huq & Venugopal, 2021; Mehtap & Al-Saidi, 2019; Mora, 2021; Ranabahu et al., 2021; Senthanar et al., 2021) and one longitudinal case study (Alkhaled, 2019). Studies were conducted in various countries though the majority were conducted in Jordan (n=4) followed by Netherlands (n=2). One study was conducted in two countries, Jordan and Lebanon. One study was conducted in each of: Canada, New Zealand, Australia, Turkey, and the United Kingdom.

**Themes from the Included Studies**

A narrative/thematic synthesis guided by the Popay et al. (2006) framework was conducted. Its results were organized into four overarching themes: (1) contextual influences on entrepreneurship; (2) constraints and barriers to entrepreneurship; (3) resilience and resourcefulness; and (4) entrepreneurship outcomes.

**Theme 1. Contextual Influences**

**Adjustment to a New Lifestyle.** Papers included in this theme explored various contextual factors including culture and balance between family and work that influence, intersect with, and shape the entrepreneurial experiences of refugee women in the host countries. Subthemes include adjustment to a new lifestyle, motivations, and entrepreneurial activities. Nine of twelve articles contained information that contributed to this theme (Adeeko & Treanor, 2022; Al-Dajani et al., 2016; Alkhaled, 2019; Astamirov, 2020; Erdirencelebi & Ertürk, 2023; Huq & Venugopal, 2021; Mora, 2021; Ranabahu et al., 2021; Senthanar et al., 2021).

Refugee women’s entrepreneurship experiences are shaped by a complex interplay of contextual factors. Cultural differences and the process of adjusting to a new lifestyle play a significant role (Mora, 2021). Refugee women face the challenge of adapting to a new cultural context when starting businesses in their host countries (Abuhussein, 2022; Adeeko & Treanor, 2022; Alkhaled, 2019). They may encounter different social norms, business practices, and expectations that influence their entrepreneurial experiences (Abuhussein, 2022; Adeeko & Treanor, 2022; Alkhaled, 2019; Senthanar et al., 2021). Cultural differences may impact their communication styles (Erdirencelebi & Ertürk, 2023), marketing strategies, customer preferences, and approaches to networking (Abuhussein, 2022; Adeeko & Treanor, 2022; Alkhaled, 2019; Senthanar et al., 2021).

Refugee women entrepreneurs may also face the challenge of maintaining their own cultural heritage while adapting to the expectations and norms of the host country market (Al-Dajani et al., 2016; Alkhaled, 2019; Erdirencelebi & Ertürk, 2023). However, they sometimes also leverage their cultural backgrounds as unique selling points or incorporate elements of their culture into their businesses and attract customers who appreciate cultural diversity (Al-Dajani et al., 2016; Alkhaled, 2019; Erdirencelebi & Ertürk, 2023; Mehtap & Al-Saidi, 2019).

Similarly, adjusting to a new lifestyle involves understanding the preferences and needs of the local customers (Al-Dajani et al., 2016; Alkhaled, 2019; Erdirencelebi & Ertürk, 2023). Being attentive to cultural nuances helps in building relationships and creating a positive customer experience that meets the expectations of the host community (Huq & Venugopal, 2021; Mora, 2021). Being a refugee woman, including having limited work permits (Al-Dajani et al., 2016) and inconsistent social welfare and international aid, negatively affects their entrepreneurial experiences (Senthanar et al., 2021). Adjusting to a new lifestyle requires learning and navigating cultural nuances (Abuhussein, 2022; Adeeko & Treanor, 2022; Alkhaled, 2019), which typically involves acquiring language skills (Erdirencelebi & Ertürk, 2023), understanding local
business customs (Adeeko & Treanor, 2022), and adapting their products or services to suit the local market (Al-Dajani et al., 2016; Erdirençelebi & Ertürk, 2023).

**Motivations and Entrepreneurial Activities.** The choice of entrepreneurial activities may be influenced by several factors such as cultural norms (Abuhussein, 2022), legal restrictions (Alkhaled, 2019), language proficiency (Erdirençelebi & Ertürk, 2023), financial constraints, and market opportunities (Abuhussein, 2022; Adeeko & Treanor, 2022; Al-Dajani et al., 2016; Alkhaled, 2019). Refugee women’s motivations for entrepreneurship are often influenced by their unique circumstances including the balancing work and family and a stigmatized social identity (Astamirov, 2020; Mehtap & Al-Saidi, 2019; Senthanar et al., 2021).

Refugee women become motivated by a desire to regain a sense of control over their lives (Mehtap & Al-Saidi, 2019) and challenge gender norms while contributing to their communities (Abuhussein, 2022; Adeeko & Treanor, 2022). The types of entrepreneurial activities they pursue are influenced by their backgrounds, skills, and available resources in the host countries (Abuhussein, 2022; Al-Dajani et al., 2016; Astamirov, 2020; Mora, 2021). These activities may include informal home-based businesses, craft making, and food-related and childcare ventures (Al-Dajani et al., 2016; Astamirov, 2020).

**Theme 2. Constraints and Barriers to Entrepreneurship**

Refugee women often face barriers that impede their entrepreneurship in their host countries, including lack of access to business training and resources and the host country’s administrative and regulatory barriers. This theme emerged from nine of the 12 articles included in this review (Abuhussein, 2022; Adeeko & Treanor, 2022; Al-Dajani et al., 2016; Alkhaled, 2019; Astamirov, 2020; Erdirençelebi & Ertürk, 2023; Huq & Venugopal, 2021; Mehtap & Al-Saidi, 2019; Ranabahu et al., 2021).

**Lack of Access to Business Training and Resources.** Refugee women often face limited employment opportunities because of a lack of formal education, and unfamiliarity with the local job market (Al-Dajani et al., 2016). Consequently, many turn to entrepreneurship as a form of self-reliance (Al-Dajani, 2019; Astamirov, 2020).

Several studies concluded that refugee women often lack access to financial support and formal business education and training opportunities in their host countries (Al-Dajani et al., 2016; Alkhaled, 2019; Astamirov, 2020). Many scholars argue that inadequate knowledge in areas such as finance, marketing, and management poses challenges that can impede their ability to establish and sustain viable businesses (Abuhussein, 2022; Al-Dajani, 2019; Astamirov, 2020). Their lack of business knowledge may result in overestimating revenue, underestimating costs, and challenges in identifying target markets, understanding customer needs and preferences, or developing effective marketing strategies (Abuhussein, 2022; Alkhaled, 2019; Astamirov, 2020). This can be compounded by the lack of institutional, social and financial support for their entrepreneurship (Abuhussein, 2022; Adeeko & Treanor, 2022; Alkhaled, 2019; Erdirençelebi & Ertürk, 2023; Huq & Venugopal, 2021).

Refugee women entrepreneurs often face limited access to financial services (Abuhussein, 2022; Adeeko & Treanor, 2022; Al-Dajani et al., 2016), such as loans and credit because banking facilities are sometimes hesitant to provide services, given the perceived risk associated with refugee status (Adeeko & Treanor, 2022; Alkhaled, 2019). Lack of access to financial capital and resources is the foremost obstacle that refugee women entrepreneurs face (Abuhussein, 2022; Adeeko & Treanor, 2022; Mehtap & Al-Saidi, 2019; Senthanar et al., 2021).

This lack of access to financial services restricts their ability to invest in their businesses, expand operations, or take advantage of growth opportunities (Adeeko & Treanor, 2022; Alkhaled, 2019). Indeed, financial constraints play a pivotal role in limiting refugees’ ability to engage in entrepreneurial activities. This scarcity of funds not only restricts access to business training and resources but also impacts every stage of business development—from conception to execution. It suggests that initiatives aimed at enhancing refugee entrepreneurship should prioritize financial assistance and access to capital as key components of their support structures, thereby enabling refugees to
leverage other resources effectively, including business training and consultancy services.

**Language, Administrative, and Regulatory Barriers.** Refugee women entrepreneurs face language barriers (Adeeko & Treanor, 2022; Erdirençelebi & Ertürk, 2023), and limited access to education and formal employment which may hinder their ability to secure jobs in the host country (Mehtap & Al-Saidi, 2019; Mora, 2021). Language barriers (Erdirençelebi & Ertürk, 2023), complex paperwork, unfamiliarity with legal procedures, and the lack of official documents or refugee status can further complicate their entrepreneurship experience (Adeeko & Treanor, 2022; Al-Dajani et al., 2016). These women face specific administrative and regulatory barriers in their new host countries (Abuhussein, 2022; Adeeko & Treanor, 2022; Alkhaled, 2019; Mora, 2021). Their unfamiliarity with administrative and regulatory requirements and limited access to information and networks further impede their entrepreneurial endeavours (Abuhussein, 2022; Adeeko & Treanor, 2022; Senthinanar et al., 2021).

Navigating the complex market and regulatory systems in the host country adds further complexity to their experiences (Abuhussein, 2022; Adeeko & Treanor, 2022; Astamirov, 2020; Mehtap & Al-Saidi, 2019).

**Theme 3. Resilience and Resourcefulness**

Looking through an empowering lens, with this theme we highlight the strengths and determination of refugee women in the face of adversity. Its subthemes relate to seeking empowerment and the pursuit of survival and independence under difficult circumstances. Nine of twelve articles contributed to this theme (Abuhussein, 2022; Adeeko & Treanor, 2022; Al-Dajani et al., 2016; Alkhaled, 2019; Astamirov, 2020; Erdirençelebi & Ertürk, 2023; Huq & Venugopal, 2021; Mehtap & Al-Saidi, 2019; Mora, 2021).

**Seeking Empowerment.** Several studies depict refugee women’s engagement in entrepreneurship activities as a means of empowerment (Adeeko & Treanor, 2022; Al-Dajani et al., 2016; Alkhaled, 2019; Erdirençelebi & Ertürk, 2023; Mehtap & Al-Saidi, 2019; Mora, 2021; Senthinanar et al., 2021). The opportunity to establish their own business and be their own boss enticed refugee women to pursue entrepreneurship, highlighting their strengths and desire for independence (Erdirençelebi & Ertürk, 2023). This finding aligns with many studies of refugee women’s entrepreneurship as a chance to regain control over their lives and navigate the intersecting oppressions they face within host countries (Adeeko & Treanor, 2022; Dijkhuizen, 2020; Mehtap & Al-Saidi, 2019). According to Al-Dajani et al. (2019), entrepreneurial endeavours can serve as a platform for refugee women to defy prevailing sociocultural norms and structures that impede their economic independence. Entrepreneurship has been shown to facilitate economic empowerment by providing refugee women with ownership and autonomy, relying on the skills they possess or acquire to establish their businesses in host countries (Mehtap & Al-Saidi, 2019). Through their businesses, refugee women introduce diverse products, services, and cultural traditions (Erdirençelebi & Ertürk, 2023) and enrich their sense of control (Mehtap & Al-Saidi, 2019). By taking charge of their own businesses, they challenge societal expectations and stereotypes that may view refugee women as passive victims (Adeeko & Treanor, 2022).

**Survival and Independence under Difficult Circumstances.** Refugee women entrepreneurs may exhibit practices that showcase their adaptability and ability to creatively solve problems (Al-Dajani et al., 2016; Alkhaled, 2019). Refugee women often face numerous challenges related to displacement, and limited resources and employment options in the host countries (Abuhussein, 2022; Adeeko & Treanor, 2022; Al-Dajani et al., 2016; Alkhaled, 2019; Dijkhuizen, 2020; Erdirençelebi & Ertürk, 2023; Huq & Venugopal, 2021; Mora, 2021). They commonly describe the stress of balancing family and work demands as difficult (Astashirov, 2020; Mehtap & Al-Saidi, 2019; Senthinanar et al., 2021). Their very challenging circumstances, including childcare and life work balance, hinder their entrepreneurship experience upon arrival to their host country (Abuhussein, 2022; Adeeko & Treanor, 2022; Al-Dajani et al., 2016; Astamirov, 2020; Mehtap & Al-Saidi, 2019). Many of these women have shown incredible resilience and resourcefulness by engaging in different social and cultural activities (Al-Dajani, 2019; Astamirov, 2020).
Through their entrepreneurial endeavors, they not only strive for survival but also seek to attain independence and improve their overall experience (Dijkhuizen, 2020; Ranabahu et al., 2021; Senthanar et al., 2021). Entrepreneurship allows refugee women to leverage their skills from their home countries while adapting to the host country’s local market demands, challenging negative stereotypes, and promoting social cohesion (Abuhussein, 2022; Adeeko & Treanor, 2022; Al-Dajani et al., 2016; Dijkhuizen, 2020; Mehtap & Al-Saidi, 2019; Mora, 2021; Senthanar et al., 2021).

**Theme 4: Entrepreneurship Outcomes**

The collective outcomes of refugee women’s entrepreneurship include improved socioeconomic standing and health and well-being in the host communities. Nine of twelve articles contributed to the development of this theme (Abuhussein, 2022; Adeeko & Treanor, 2022; Al-Dajani et al., 2016; Alkhaled, 2019; Dijkhuizen, 2020; Erdirençelebi & Ertürk, 2023; Mehtap & Al-Saidi, 2019; Ranabahu et al., 2021; Senthanar et al., 2021).

**Socioeconomic Standing in the Host Communities.** Refugee women’s entrepreneurship has significant collective socioeconomic impacts on their host countries (Dijkhuizen, 2020; Mehtap & Al-Saidi, 2019; Ranabahu et al., 2021; Senthanar et al., 2021). Their entrepreneurial endeavors contribute to improving their socioeconomic standing (Dijkhuizen, 2020; Ranabahu et al., 2021) and relieving host communities of the economic burden of supporting refugees (Senthanar et al., 2021). By starting and running businesses, refugee women gain financial independence, which enhances their self-esteem and agency (Dijkhuizen, 2020; Mehtap & Al-Saidi, 2019). As refugee women become economically self-sufficient, they can better support their families (Mehtap & Al-Saidi, 2019; Senthanar et al., 2021) and actively participate in the community (Adeeko & Treanor, 2022; Ranabahu et al., 2021; Senthanar et al., 2021). Their entrepreneurship plays a crucial role in host communities (Senthanar et al., 2021) by contributing to local economic growth and job creation (Al-Dajani et al., 2016; Alkhaled, 2019). Their businesses also stimulate local markets and supply chains, leading to increased economic activity (Adeeko & Treanor, 2022; Al-Dajani et al., 2016; Alkhaled, 2019; Senthanar et al., 2021).

This economic relief reduces the strain on host communities and enhances social cohesion by promoting intercultural interactions and economic integration (Adeeko & Treanor, 2022; Al-Dajani et al., 2016; Senthanar et al., 2021). Refugee women entrepreneurs often engage in community events, collaborations, and networking which can create platforms for intercultural dialogue and foster social cohesion (Senthanar et al., 2021). Finally, their resilience, determination, and success stories challenge preconceived notions about refugees and gender roles, provide examples of overcoming adversity (Adeeko & Treanor, 2022), and make positive contributions to society (Al-Dajani et al., 2016; Alkhaled, 2019; Senthanar et al., 2021).

**Health and Well-being in the Host Communities.** Entrepreneurship can positively affect the health and well-being of refugee women (Dijkhuizen, 2020; Mehtap & Al-Saidi, 2019; Senthanar et al., 2021). Generating income assists refugee women in reducing vulnerability to health risks (Dijkhuizen, 2020). Entrepreneurship also provides opportunities for social connections, peer support, and community engagement (Erdirençelebi & Ertürk, 2023). Additionally, refugee women entrepreneurs often prioritize holistic approaches to health including emotional well-being (Dijkhuizen, 2020) and incorporating practices that promote well-being within their businesses and communities (Erdirençelebi & Ertürk, 2023; Mehtap & Al-Saidi, 2019). In a similar vein, refugee women’s entrepreneurship fosters cultural exchange and integration within host communities (Senthanar et al., 2021). Through their engagement in entrepreneurship and interactions with the host country, they promote understanding, appreciation, and respect for different cultures, challenging stereotypes and prejudices (Abuhussein, 2022; Al-Dajani et al., 2016; Ranabahu et al., 2021; Senthanar et al., 2021). Engaging in entrepreneurship can have transformative effects on refugee women’s self-perception, well-being, and confidence (Mehtap & Al-Saidi, 2019).

**DISCUSSION**

This scoping review aimed to explore what is known about refugee women’s entrepreneurship and its impact on their socioeconomic status and well-being. After reviewing the 12 articles included in this review,
we identified four overarching themes: (1) contextual influences; (2) constraints and barriers to entrepreneurship; (3) resilience and resourcefulness; and (4) entrepreneurship’s outcomes. Exploring what is already known about refugee women’s entrepreneurship, the findings point to the various factors that affect their entrepreneurship journeys and the socioeconomic and well-being impact in their host countries.

This scoping review also offers an initial understanding of the intricate elements that shape and affect the entrepreneurial experiences of refugee women in their host countries. Table 3 summarizes the findings of the included papers, moving from a broad view of factors influencing refugee women’s entrepreneurship to the socioeconomic and well-being impact of their entrepreneurship activities.

Based on the articles included in this scoping review, cultural and contextual factors shape refugee women’s entrepreneurship journey in their host countries. These factors can make it difficult for them to navigate the business environment and establish connections. The process of adjusting to a new life can be overwhelming and may impact their engagement in entrepreneurial activities. Contextual factors play a significant role in facilitating employment opportunities for refugee women, and the “Life Beyond Refuge” theory highlights the impact of a welcoming community on their adjustment (Janzen et al., 2022). These issues are consistent with previous literature regarding the process of adjusting to new life with its consequences on refugee women’s entrepreneurship (Hartmann & Philipp, 2022; Jones Christensen & Newman, 2023; Yeröz, 2019). Refugee women who pursue entrepreneurship can have various motivations including economic necessity. This theme is congruent with previous studies on refugee women’s entrepreneurship in terms of barriers to (Almohammad, Durrah, & Ahmed, 2021; de Lange et al., 2021; Nijhoff, 2021; Wauters & Lambrecht, 2008) and lack of knowledge about entrepreneurship (Harkema & Popescu, 2015). Access to resources is often a major challenge for refugee women entrepreneurs. They may have difficulty accessing bank loans because of a limited credit history or collateral. This lack of financial resources can hinder their ability to start or expand their businesses, purchase necessary equipment or inventory, and invest in marketing and advertising (Mehtap et al., 2017; Tripathi & Singh, 2018).

Language barriers also pose significant challenges for refugee women in their entrepreneurial endeavors. Limited proficiency in the host country’s language can hinder effective communication with customers, suppliers, and other stakeholders. It can also make it challenging to navigate legal and administrative processes, such as obtaining permits or licenses, understanding tax regulations, or accessing support services. This finding aligns with prior literature on female immigrant entrepreneurship, indicating that the availability and
utilization of specific resources (such as human, social, and financial resources) play a crucial role in shaping entrepreneurial activities (Chreim et al., 2018).

Finally, the included studies concur that the host country’s administrative and regulatory barriers can present significant obstacles for refugee women entrepreneurs. The presence of discrepancies or intricacies within the legal framework, as well as barriers related to laws and regulations, labor regulations, and lengthy registration procedures, are also identified as external obstacles to entrepreneurship (Abdulghaffar & Akkad, 2021). These barriers can be overwhelming, particularly when combined with language barriers, and can further impede the women’s ability to start or sustain a business in the host countries (Rashid, 2018).

This review examines refugee women’s resilience and resourcefulness and emphasizes the strengths and determination exhibited by these women as they navigate the challenges of building businesses in their new host countries. Their pursuit of economic empowerment and the quest for survival and independence in difficult circumstances not only transform their own lives but also inspire other refugees (Adeeko & Treanor, 2022). The studies concur that engaging in entrepreneurship activities empowers refugee women to survive and attain economic independence. Their ability to embrace change and seize opportunities allows them to survive and thrive even in uncertain situations. Refugee women often engage in informal economies as a means of survival (Mehtap & Al-Saidi, 2019). These entrepreneurial efforts, though informal, provide them with a degree of economic independence and a means to support themselves and their families. Refugee women often confront gender and cultural barriers that restrict their economic opportunities (Abuhussein, 2022).

However, their resilience and resourcefulness drive them to challenge and overcome these barriers (Kayaoglu et al., 2022; Shepherd et al., 2020). Recognizing and supporting their resilience and resourcefulness are essential in empowering them to achieve economic independence and contribute to their communities (Al-Dajani & Marlow, 2013; Dryjanska, 2020; El Ali & Le Loarne-Lemaire, 2022). Providing entrepreneurship education and training, mentoring, and inclusive entrepreneurship programs can further enhance their abilities and create sustainable pathways to economic empowerment (Orser et al., 2019).

The reviewed studies also asserted that entrepreneurship could have a positive impact on the socioeconomic standing and health and well-being of refugee women in their host countries. Entrepreneurship provides refugee women with the opportunity to generate income and improve their economic standing (Mehtap & Al-Saidi, 2019; Senthanar et al., 2021). By starting their own businesses or engaging in income-generating activities, they can achieve financial independence, reduce reliance on external assistance, and lift themselves out of poverty. This economic empowerment enables them to support their families, access better healthcare, education, and housing, and invest in their future. By starting businesses, they contribute to local economies, generate employment, and stimulate economic growth which can enhance the overall socioeconomic development of their host country (Noorbakhsh & Teixeira, 2023).

Entrepreneurship can also have positive implications for the health and well-being of refugee women. Increased financial resources provide them with greater access to healthcare services, better nutrition, and improved living conditions (Dijkhuizen, 2020; Senthanar et al., 2021). By nurturing and harnessing refugee women’s entrepreneurial potential, societies can realize the numerous benefits that entrepreneurship brings to the socioeconomic standing and health and well-being of refugee women in host countries. Furthermore, refugee women’s entrepreneurship has a significant impact on their life satisfaction (Cetin et al., 2022). By starting and managing their own businesses, they often experience increased financial stability, economic independence, and improved socioeconomic conditions for themselves and their families. This can alleviate financial stress and uncertainty, leading to a greater sense of security and contentment.

IMPLICATIONS

The exploration of refugee women’s entrepreneurship and its socioeconomic and well-being impacts in host countries provides valuable
insights into their experiences, challenges, and opportunities. Tailored programs that consider language barriers, cultural contexts, access to financial resources, and business training programs can equip refugee women with the necessary skills and knowledge to overcome these barriers and achieve financial stability and independence. By investing in their business education and training, host countries can unlock the potential of refugee women entrepreneurs and contribute to their overall empowerment and well-being.

From administrative and policy perspectives, revising entrepreneurship policies, support systems, and labor market legislation and regulation can provide effective strategies for supporting and empowering refugee women entrepreneurs in diverse settings. Evaluating existing policies and programs aimed at supporting refugee women’s entrepreneurship is crucial for assessing their effectiveness. The review findings call for gender-sensitive and responsive policies, and inclusive and empowering entrepreneurship regulations and frameworks.

Future research can explore the role of social networks, community support, and social capital in facilitating entrepreneurial success by shedding light on effective models for supporting refugee women’s entrepreneurship. Investigating successful collaborations and partnerships can help identify best practices, enhance coordination, and leverage resources to create comprehensive support systems. Further studies should delve into the specific economic, social, and health impacts of refugee women’s entrepreneurship on different host communities. Analyzing the ripple effects, including job creation, economic growth, and community cohesion, can provide evidence-based insights into the benefits of supporting refugee women entrepreneurs as an integral part of inclusive development. It is crucial to conduct future comparative studies across different host countries and contexts to help identify the similarities and differences in refugee women’s entrepreneurship experiences.

LIMITATIONS

The exclusion of papers that weren’t available in English language is a limitation because this exclusion criterion might have led to the loss of important information. Given the small number of articles found, and the nature and intent of this scoping review, it is not viable to generalize the finding across all entrepreneurs in different host countries. Because all the included studies have a qualitative design, there is a lack of quantitative and longitudinal investigations examining long-term benefits or consequences of refugee women’s entrepreneurship. Scoping reviews inherently possess limitations because they prioritize breadth over depth when it comes to providing information on a specific topic. However, an effort was made to provide thorough discussion of the findings so that readers from different disciplines can comprehend the range of literature on refugee women’s entrepreneurship.

CONCLUSION

This study highlights the significance of refugee women’s entrepreneurship in shaping their socioeconomic and well-being outcomes in their new host countries. Through entrepreneurship, refugee women gain financial independence, provide employment opportunities, contribute to local economic growth, and foster social cohesion and promote their health and well-being. Cultural differences and adjusting to a new lifestyle play a significant role in refugee women’s entrepreneurship experiences. Navigating these differences requires cultural sensitivity, adaptation, and understanding of the host country’s labor market. Refugee women entrepreneurs can effectively engage with their target audience, build relationships, and create successful businesses that resonate with the host community. The review also highlights the need for further research, comparative analysis, policy revision, and tailored training programs to enhance women’s entrepreneurship.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to those who have been instrumental in the successful completion of this manuscript. Their unyielding commitment, innovative thinking, and meticulous attention to detail were instrumental in the quality and success of this manuscript. We greatly appreciate their tireless efforts, deep expertise, and the spirit of collaboration they demonstrated throughout the research process.
REFERENCES


Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities. OECD.


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SECTION</th>
<th>ITEM</th>
<th>PRISMA-ScR CHECKLIST ITEM</th>
<th>REPORTED ON PAGE #</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TITLE</strong></td>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Identify the report as a scoping review.</td>
<td>114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ABSTRACT</strong></td>
<td>Structured summary</td>
<td>Provide a structured summary that includes (as applicable): background, objectives, eligibility criteria, sources of evidence, charting methods, results, and conclusions that relate to the review questions and objectives.</td>
<td>114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>INTRODUCTION</strong></td>
<td>Rationale</td>
<td>Describe the rationale for the review in the context of what is already known. Explain why the review questions/objectives lend themselves to a scoping review approach.</td>
<td>115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Objectives</td>
<td>Provide an explicit statement of the questions and objectives being addressed with reference to their key elements (e.g., population or participants, concepts, and context) or other relevant key elements used to conceptualize the review questions and/or objectives.</td>
<td>115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>METHODS</strong></td>
<td>Protocol and registration</td>
<td>Indicate whether a review protocol exists; state if and where it can be accessed (e.g., a Web address); and if available, provide registration information, including the registration number.</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Eligibility criteria</td>
<td>Specify characteristics of the sources of evidence used as eligibility criteria (e.g., years considered, language, and publication status), and provide a rationale.</td>
<td>115-116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Information sources*</td>
<td>Describe all information sources in the search (e.g., databases with dates of coverage and contact with authors to identify additional sources), as well as the date the most recent search was executed.</td>
<td>115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Search</td>
<td>Present the full electronic search strategy for at least 1 database, including any limits used, such that it could be repeated.</td>
<td>115</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Selection of sources of evidence†</td>
<td>State the process for selecting sources of evidence (i.e., screening and eligibility) included in the scoping review.</td>
<td>116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Data charting process‡</td>
<td>Describe the methods of charting data from the included sources of evidence (e.g., calibrated forms or forms that have been tested by the team before their use, and whether data charting was done independently or in duplicate) and any processes for obtaining and confirming data from investigators.</td>
<td>116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Data items</td>
<td>List and define all variables for which data were sought and any assumptions and simplifications made.</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Critical appraisal of individual sources of evidence§</td>
<td>If done, provide a rationale for conducting a critical appraisal of included sources of evidence; describe the methods used and how this information was used in any data synthesis (if appropriate).</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Synthesis of results</td>
<td>Describe the methods of handling and summarizing the data that were charted.</td>
<td>117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SECTION</td>
<td>ITEM</td>
<td>PRISMA-ScR CHECKLIST ITEM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Selection of sources of evidence</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Give numbers of sources of evidence screened, assessed for eligibility, and included in the review, with reasons for exclusions at each stage, ideally using a flow diagram.</td>
<td>129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Characteristics of sources of evidence</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>For each source of evidence, present characteristics for which data were charted and provide the citations.</td>
<td>116-117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Critical appraisal within sources of evidence</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>If done, present data on critical appraisal of included sources of evidence (see item 12).</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Results of individual sources of evidence</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>For each included source of evidence, present the relevant data that were charted that relate to the review questions and objectives.</td>
<td>117-118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Synthesis of results</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Summarize and/or present the charting results as they relate to the review questions and objectives.</td>
<td>123-125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DISCUSSION</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Summary of evidence</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>Summarize the main results (including an overview of concepts, themes, and types of evidence available), link to the review questions and objectives, and consider the relevance to key groups.</td>
<td>124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limitations</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Discuss the limitations of the scoping review process.</td>
<td>124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conclusions</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>Provide a general interpretation of the results with respect to the review questions and objectives, as well as potential implications and/or next steps.</td>
<td>124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FUNDING</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Funding</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>Describe sources of funding for the included sources of evidence, as well as sources of funding for the scoping review. Describe the role of the funders of the scoping review.</td>
<td>114</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Figure 1. PRISMA flow diagram

- Number of records identified through database search: Academic Search (27), Business Source Complete (32), CINAHL (8), PsychINFO (12), Scopus (15), Web of Science Core Collection (99), Google Scholar search (31), (n = 224)
- Duplicates removed by EndNote (n = 57)
- Records screened (n = 167)
- Records excluded: Irrelevant, did not meet the criteria and aim of study (n = 118)
- Reports sought for retrieval (n = 49)
- Reports not retrieved (n = 0)
- Reports assessed for eligibility (n = 49)
- Records excluded: Irrelevant, did not meet the criteria and aim of study (n = 38)
- Number of studies included after full text screening (n = 11)
- Number of studies after the reviewing of included studies reference lists (n = 12)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author/Date/Country</th>
<th>Aim/Research Question</th>
<th>Method</th>
<th>Sample</th>
<th>Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abuhussein, 2022, Jordan</td>
<td>To investigate COVID-19 impacts on refugee women’s entrepreneurship.</td>
<td>Semi-structured interviews</td>
<td>30 Syrian refugee women</td>
<td>1. Desire for independence, integration, and income were primary motivators for refugee women in entrepreneurship 2. Financial, social, and cultural challenges are commonly faced by refugee women in starting and developing their businesses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adeeko and Treanor, 2022, United Kingdom</td>
<td>To explore how refugee women engage in dynamic identity work to transform themselves into entrepreneurs in their efforts to mitigate stigma.</td>
<td>Case study approach/unstructured and semi-structured interviews</td>
<td>5 refugee women who engaged in entrepreneurial activities</td>
<td>1. Refugee women endure the burden of a stigmatized refugee identity, which is compounded by gender bias, racialized stigma, and an overall feeling of being “othered.” 2. Entrepreneurship provided a pathway for refugee women to overcome barriers in accessing the labour market, supporting themselves and their families, challenging negative societal assumptions, seeking validation, and navigating discrimination and racism by appealing to the host community. 3. Refugee women entrepreneurs face persistent social and economic challenges.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Al-Dajani, Carter and Williams, 2016, Jordan</td>
<td>To explore the entrepreneurial activities of refugee and displaced women in Jordan’s informal economy.</td>
<td>Semi-structured, in-depth interviews</td>
<td>6 refugee women</td>
<td>1. Entrepreneurial challenges encountered by refugee women include balancing work and family responsibilities, threatened business closure, securing work permits, finding clients, and navigating the market. 2. Refugee women’s resourcefulness helped elevate their entrepreneurial opportunities and expand their market.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alkhaled, 2019, Jordan</td>
<td>To explore refugee entrepreneurship in Amman Jordan.</td>
<td>Longitudinal case study</td>
<td>1 Syrian refugee women entrepreneur</td>
<td>1. Individual, community, and institutional constraints of refugee status create restrictions for entrepreneurship. 2. Refugee women’s resilience supports them in persisting in their entrepreneurial endeavours despite challenges.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Astamirov, 2020, Netherlands | To understand the experience of female refugee entrepreneurs and how they construct their entrepreneurial identity in relation to their ethnic, gender, and refugee identity. | Semi-structured interviews | 10 female refugee entrepreneurs | 1. Balancing family and work commitments  
2. Managing conflict between gender expectations and entrepreneurship  
3. Coping with barriers and obstacles such as social rejection and lack of support  
4. Negotiating home and host culture through entrepreneurship |
<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diaz de León Mora, 2021, Netherlands</td>
<td>To understand the inclusion of female Syrian refugee entrepreneurs in Dutch society during the COVID-19 pandemic</td>
<td>Life story interviews / observations</td>
<td>10 female Syrian refugee entrepreneurs</td>
<td>The opportunities and challenges presented to female refugee entrepreneurs based on their intersectional backgrounds impact how entrepreneurship facilitates or hinders inclusion.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Dijkhuizen, 2020, Lebanon and Jordan | To explore the potential of entrepreneurial activities to alleviate life uncertainty and its impact on the well-being of refugee women in settlement camps. | Interview | 7 refugee women living in settlement camps | 1. Entrepreneurship provides refugee women with the opportunity to develop a passion.  
2. Entrepreneurship evokes feelings of independence for refugee women to improve their well-being. |
| Erdirençelebi and Ertürk, 2023, Turkey | To examine the “push and pull” factors that motivate refugee women in entrepreneurship. | Semi-structured interviews | 9 Syrian refugee women | 1. Desire for autonomy, respect, and financial profit along with cultural values and social networks “pull” Syrian refugee women toward entrepreneurship.  
2. Language barriers, discrimination, poor working conditions, and low wages “push” Syrian refugee women toward entrepreneurship. |
| Huq and Venugopal, 2020, Australia | To examine how community sector organizations, commercial organizations, and policymakers can best support refugee women’s employment and integration. | Narrative interviews | 12 refugee women | 1. Refugee women experience complex self-reconstruction and socialization when assuming the role of entrepreneurs.  
2. Due to lack of formal support, refugee women depend on their own resilience when navigating individual, social, and economic struggles that arise when engaging in entrepreneurial activities. |
| Mehtap and Al-Saidi, 2019, Jordan | To explore the experiences of refugee women in informal entrepreneurship. | Semi-structured interviews | 5 Syrian refugee women | 1. Engaging in entrepreneurship out of economic necessity.  
2. Developing a sense of control over life through entrepreneurship  
3. Coping with financial and social challenges  
4. Balancing family and work life. |
<p>| Ranabahu, de Vries and Basharati, | To understand how refugee women entrepreneurs’ everyday experiences intersect with various contextual | Semi-structured interviews | 4 refugee women entrepreneurs | Refugee women’s level of connection to home country, the circumstances of their refugee journey, and the degree of integration into the host country and its opportunities influence their individual entrepreneurial experience. |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Research Focus</th>
<th>Methodology</th>
<th>Findings</th>
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<tr>
<td>2021, NZ</td>
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<td>factors in the transition and integration to a new host country.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
|           |                          | To explore the motives and factors that drive entrepreneurship in Syrian refugee women in Canada and understand the different contexts that facilitate or impede these activities. | In-depth interviews | 1. Syrian refugee women pursued entrepreneurship to balance their responsibilities in and outside the home.  
2. Entrepreneurship supports refugee women in coping with exclusion from the formal economy  
3. Entrepreneurship portrayed as a social enterprise prompting the social cohesion of refugee women. |
| 2020, CA  |                          |                                                                                  |                   |                                                                          |
Figure 2. Number of included articles by year of publication
Table 3. Factors influencing refugee women’s entrepreneurship and the impact of entrepreneurship

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factors influencing refugee women’s entrepreneurship</th>
<th>Impact of refugee women’s entrepreneurship</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Limited access to funds</td>
<td>• Promotes refugee women’s well-being</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Resilience and coping strategies</td>
<td>• Improves refugee women’s socioeconomic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Lack of business knowledge, management skills, and</td>
<td>standing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>training</td>
<td>• Serves as a means of survival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Administrative and regulatory barriers</td>
<td>• Enhances cultural exchange and integration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Cultural and social values</td>
<td>• Inspires and serves as role models</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Gender discrimination and dynamics</td>
<td>• Provides economic empowerment under</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Adjusting to a new lifestyle</td>
<td>difficult circumstances</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Language barriers and unfamiliarity with the</td>
<td>• Relieves the economic burden of host</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>local job market</td>
<td>communities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Women’s motivations</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• The intersection of gender, ethnicity, religion,</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>class, and the refugee background and limited</td>
<td></td>
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<td>work permits</td>
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