

Homestay Hosting Dynamics and Refugee Wellbeing: A scoping Review Protocol

Areej Al-Hamad, Yasin M. Yasin, Kateryna Metersky, Sepali Guruge, Khadija
Mahsud

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Table of Contents

Original Manuscript.....	5
Supplementary Files.....	18
0.....	18
Multimedia Appendixes.....	19
Multimedia Appendix 1.....	19
Multimedia Appendix 2.....	19
Multimedia Appendix 3.....	19
Multimedia Appendix 4.....	19
Existing Peer-Review Reports from Funding Agencies (for protocols/proposals only)s.....	20
Existing Peer-Review Reports from Funding Agencies (for protocols/proposals only) 0.....	20
Existing Peer-Review Reports from Funding Agencies (for protocols/proposals only) 0.....	20

Homestay Hosting Dynamics and Refugee Wellbeing: A scoping Review Protocol

Areej Al-Hamad¹ PhD; Yasin M. Yasin² PhD; Kateryna Metersky¹ PhD; Sepali Guruge¹ PhD; Khadija Mahsud² MLiS

¹Toronto Metropolitan University Toronto CA

²University of Doha for Science and Technology Doha QA

Corresponding Author:

Areej Al-Hamad PhD
Toronto Metropolitan University
DCC544- 288 Church St. Toronto, ON M5B 1Z5
Toronto
CA

Abstract

Background: Understanding the experiences of refugees and their host families is vital for effective refugee settlement, integration and wellbeing. However, the intricacies of refugee hosting, their interactions with host families, and the impact on their wellbeing are still unclear and ambiguous.

Objective: The overall objective of this scoping review is to explore the experiences of refugees with their host families and understand the dynamics of homestay hosting and its impact on refugee wellbeing.

Methods: This scoping review will be conducted in accordance with the JBI methodology for scoping reviews. The following databases will be searched: Via EBSCO interface: CINAHL, SOCIndex, Medline, Academic Search Complete, Via OVID interace: APA PsycInfo, Scopus, Web of Science interface: Web of Science Core Collection, ProQuest Dissertations and Theses, SciELO Citation index. The search will include the English language and only publications published in 2011 or after. The search will utilize the concept of hosting within refugee accommodation and family hosting in relation to refugee groups in different host countries including all literature types. Titles, abstracts, and full articles will be independently reviewed by two independent reviewers. Any differences in opinion will be settled through mutual agreement or consultation with a third reviewer. The research team will develop a specialized tool for data extraction.

Results: The results will be organized in tables or diagrams, accompanied by a narrative overview, emphasizing the main synthesized findings related to the dynamics of homestay hosting with host families and refugee wellbeing. No critical appraisal will be conducted. This scoping review is expected to identify research gaps that will inform the development of homestay refugee hosting models, policies and practices. The final completed review is planned for submission to an indexed journal in April 2024.

Conclusions: To our knowledge, this review will be the first review to provide knowledge about the dynamics and intricacies of homestay refugee hosting, their interactions with host families, and the impact on their wellbeing and the value that this work adds to refugees' hosting practices and models. Clinical Trial: Open Science Framework review protocol registration: <https://doi.org/10.17605/OSF.IO/WFSJR>

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Original Manuscript

Homestay Hosting Dynamics and Refugee Wellbeing: A scoping Review Protocol

Abstract

Background: The process of refugee resettlement and integration into new communities is a complex and multifaceted challenge, not only for the refugees themselves but also for the host families involved in homestay housing arrangement. While these homestay arrangements are designed to facilitate smoother transitions and enhance the wellbeing of refugees, the nuanced dynamics of these interactions and their overall impact on both refugees and their host families remain underexplored. Understanding the experiences of refugees and their host families is vital for effective refugee settlement, integration and wellbeing. However, the intricacies of homestay refugee hosting, their interactions with host families, and the impact on their wellbeing are still unclear and ambiguous.

Objective: The aim of this scoping review is to examine the breadth of literature on the experiences of refugees living in homestay arrangements with their host families. This review seeks to understand how these dynamics influence refugee wellbeing, including their integration, social connections, and mental health. Additionally, this scoping review aims to synthesize existing literature on homestay hosting dynamics, focusing on the experiences of refugees and their host families, to identify gaps in knowledge and suggest areas for future research.

Methods: This scoping review follows JBI methodology and will search databases such as CINAHL, SOCIndex, Medline via EBSCO; APA PsycInfo, Scopus via OVID; and Web of Science Core Collection, ProQuest Dissertations and Theses and SciELO Citation index, focusing on literature from 2011 onwards, in English, in relation to refugee groups in different host countries including all literature types. Literature will be screened by two independent reviewers, with disagreements resolved by consensus or a third reviewer. A custom data extraction tool will be created by the research team.

Results: The results will be organized in tables or diagrams, accompanied by a narrative overview, emphasizing the main synthesized findings related to the dynamics of homestay hosting with host families and refugee wellbeing. No critical appraisal will be conducted. This scoping review is expected to identify research gaps that will inform the development of homestay refugee hosting models, policies and practices. It will also offer insights into best practices and policy recommendations to improve homestay hosting programs, ultimately contributing to more effective refugee settlement and integration strategies.

Conclusions: Understanding the intricate dynamics of homestay hosting arrangements is crucial for developing policies and programs that support the wellbeing of refugees and the families that host them. This scoping review will shed light on the current knowledge landscape, identify research gaps, and suggest ways to enhance the homestay hosting experience for all parties involved. Through this work, we aim to contribute to the development of more inclusive, supportive, and effective approaches to refugee hosting, resettlement and integration.

Keywords: Homestay; hospitality; host family; refugee; wellbeing; host-guest relationship; cohabitation.

Introduction

The global displacement of refugees amounted to 35.3 million individuals, with a majority comprising female [1]. However, as the number of individuals seeking refuge in host countries grows the housing needs of such persons beckons resolution. One prosperous solution that has arisen from housing needs is refugee hosting [2]. Within the purview of refugee studies, the term "hosting" signifies the established societies or communities that undertake the resettlement of refugees [3]. Hosting communities are often credited with the expectation to foster welcoming and accepting environments for refugee women and their families to settle after escaping conflict [4].

Families seeking support may be placed, by publicly or privately funded organizations, into the homes of host families. Such homes are volunteered by willing families or individuals, many of whom were refugees or immigrants [5]. Hosting communities and their members often play a crucial role in extending hospitality and support to refugee women and their families to facilitate integration [6]. This culture of hospitality is also observed at the individual level notably within urban communities, where there is a rising trend of individuals and families hosting refugees in their private residences [7]. The role of these host families typically involves temporarily sharing their homes and resources with newly arrived refugees, all with the aim of enhancing the settlement process [7]. However, the use of the terms "host" and "hosting" illustrates a host-guest relationship, positioning refugees as within the domain of the hosts. This conveys an underlying power imbalance between the hosts and the refugees [4, 8]. This dynamic can also cultivate certain expectations imposed on refugees, dictating their behavior according to the host's perceived standards of being worthy of hospitality [8]. For example, in a study by Monforte, et al. [8], exploring the responsibility of hosting, private hosts expressed emotional connection and mutual affection as a jointly shared responsibility with refugees, placing expectations on refugees to reciprocate. When refugees did not meet their expectation due to language barriers or unwillingness to discuss their past, hosts' perception of the refugee's value altered [8].

The expectation on the refugee to be a "good guest" highlights the conditional nature of private hosting, therefore requiring refugee to prove they are deserving of being hosted [4, 6, 8]. When refugees do not match the expectations or ideas of hosts this can create an uncomfortable environment for refugees [6]. Furthermore, hosting arrangement and expectations can limit refugees' control over their surroundings, as they are essentially guests in someone else's domain [4, 7, 8]. This lack of control over their living situation can potentially hinder their ability to rebuild their lives autonomously and trigger power differences and an extra layer of vulnerability [9, 10]. This power difference is even more pronounced for refugee women due to the intersection of gender-related disparities [11]. In addition, refugees lack of host country citizenship further positions them as guests and makes them vulnerable to various abuses of power [12]. Viewing refugees' women as mere guests within host homes and communities increases their social and economic vulnerabilities, especially without sufficient system-level policies and safeguards in place to protect their welfare [13].

Dağtaş [14] argues that refugee lived experience is heavily influenced by the host country's political conditions and social welfare policies (for refugees). In addition, current literature has revealed that hosting frameworks have created a racialized discourse of non-belonging [15]. Furthermore, reviews of the literature on current home stay or family hosting practices and regulations for refugee groups highlights an enormous gap [16]. Although communities and host families play an immense role in refugee settlement, refugee well-being relies heavily on standards being shaped by inclusive and informed social welfare policies and practices [17]. Host families and the communities in which refugees are hosted are pivotal in their successful settlement and success [17, 18]. They may provide

crucial aid to refugees, including more tangible forms of support, such as housing or financial aid, in addition to more abstract forms of assistance, such as cultural orientation, emotional support and social comfort [18]. However, as generally unregulated social groups, the success of such support provided to refugees can vary largely based on cultural competency, empathetic disposition and understanding, and the attitudes and perspectives of communities and host families [5, 17]. For meaningful exploration of the hosting practices and dynamics implemented by the host families, it is imperative to understand the discourse these practices bring forth and their implications on refugees' wellbeing.

A preliminary search of the literature via reviews registries (Open Science Framework and JBI Evidence Synthesis) was conducted. No current or in-progress scoping reviews on this topic were identified. Existing reviews do not study the specific relationship between refugees and host families; reviews on the topic of refugee integration in general tend to be focused on a particular geography in terms of host country or on a particular subset of refugees (e.g. by gender, host country, or by accommodations practices). The aim of this scoping review is to explore the experiences of refugees with their host families and understand the dynamics of homestay hosting on refugee wellbeing. A scoping review is an appropriate method to gather, organize, and chart the evidence [19] related to refugees living with host families. It aims to pinpoint variances and parallels in homestay hosting approaches and practices, enhancing our comprehension of their effects on refugee wellbeing. This review is intended to inform future research that could guide evolving practices or models for refugee hosting.

Review question

What is known from the existing literature about the experiences of refugees with homestay hosting?

Methods

The proposed scoping review will be conducted in accordance with the JBI methodology for scoping review [19] and the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic and Meta-Analyses extension for Scoping Reviews (PRISMA-ScR) [19, 20]. The protocol of this review has been registered with Open Science Framework [21]: <https://doi.org/10.17605/OSF.IO/WFSJR>

Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

Participants: This review will consider studies involving participants who identify as refugees, displaced persons or asylum seekers will be eligible for inclusion in the review. There will be no restrictions based on age, or gender.

Concept: This review will consider literature that pertains to refugee hosting experience, hosting practices, homestay, host-guest relationship, cohabitation and refugee wellbeing.

Context: This review will consider literature specific to refugee accommodation, hosting family, homestay hosting practices in different host countries and different geographical settings.

Types of sources: This review will consider all types of study designs. Database searches will not be limited to a particular evidence source type. Primary research articles, review articles, editorials, theses, dissertations, reports, publication after 2011, and other grey literature in English language will be included. This scoping review will also include theses and conference proceedings. Opinion papers will also be considered for inclusion in this scoping review depending on the focus and

context. See Table 1 for inclusion and exclusion criteria.

Table 1: Inclusion and exclusion criteria

Criteria	Inclusion	Exclusion
Participants	Studies involving refugees, displaced persons, or asylum seekers, no restrictions based on age or gender.	Studies involving other than refugees or displaced persons, or asylum seekers. Immigrants will be excluded.
Concept	Literature on refugee hosting experience, hosting practices, homestay, host-guest relationship, cohabitation, and refugee wellbeing.	Literature on different hosting arrangements or targeting hosting from a hosting nation or country.
Context	Literature on refugee accommodation, hosting family, homestay hosting in different host countries and geographical settings.	Literature on different hosting arrangements or accommodation targeting hosting from a hosting nation or country.
Types of Sources	All types of study designs. Primary research articles, review articles, editorials, theses, dissertations, reports, grey literature, theses, conference proceedings and opinion papers.	Uncompleted and irrelevant sources that are out of the review's scope.
Language	English language	Other than English language
Publication date	Publications after 2011 and after	Publication before 2011

Search strategy

In collaboration with a research librarian, the search strategy was built using some seed articles supplied to the librarian by the lead researcher as well as an initial search of several databases using basic terms. The search strategy, encompassing all identified keywords and index terms, will be tailored to suit each database and/or information source included. These searches were built up and used to develop a full search strategy for CINAHL (see Appendix I). For other interfaces, the search will be modified as per the accepted Booleans, etc. The final scoping review will include all searches as appendices. The search strategy was also peer reviewed by a fellow librarian using the PRESS Peer Review Strategy [22]. Studies published in English and since 2011 will be included. The

reference list of all included sources will be screened for additional studies. The databases to be searched include: Via EBSCO interface: CINAHL, SOCIndex, Medline, Academic Search Complete, Via OVID interface: APA PsycInfo, Scopus, Web of Science interface: Web of Science Core Collection, ProQuest Dissertations and Theses, SciELO Citation index, ProQUEST. As no source filters will be used, grey literature on these databases such as conference proceedings and theses will also be captured.

Study selection

Following the search, all identified citations will be collated and uploaded into EndNote v.21 and duplicates will be removed. Following a pilot test, titles and abstracts will then be screened by two or more independent reviewers for assessment against the inclusion criteria for the review. Potentially relevant studies will be retrieved in full and their citation details imported into the JBI SUMARI for the unified management, assessment and review of information [23]. The full text of selected citations will be assessed in detail against the inclusion criteria by two or more independent reviewers. Reasons for exclusion of papers at full text that do not meet the inclusion criteria will be recorded and reported in an appendix in the full review. Any disagreements that arise between the reviewers at each stage of the selection process will be resolved through discussion, or with an additional reviewer/s. The results of the search and the study inclusion process will be reported in full in the final scoping review and presented in a PRISMA flow diagram [19, 20].

Data extraction

Data will be extracted from studies included in the review by two independent reviewers using a data extraction tool developed by the reviewers based on content relevant to the review question (see Appendix II). The data extracted will include specific details about the participants, concept, context, study methods, and key findings relevant to the review question. The initial data extraction tool will undergo adjustments and updates as needed throughout the data extraction phase from each selected source of evidence. These changes will be thoroughly documented in the scoping review. Any disagreements that arose between the reviewers will be resolved through discussion or with a third reviewer. We will reach out to authors for further details or clarifications when necessary. Should we encounter missing, unclear, or ambiguous data crucial for our analysis, we will contact the respective authors.

Results

To address this scoping review's objective of identifying, collating, and mapping the evidence about the term homestay hosting in relation to refugee groups with their host families in different host countries, we will undertake a comprehensive and thorough analytical process. This will involve synthesizing information from the selected studies into a cohesive framework. The key outcomes of this process will be systematically documented in a detailed table, which will encapsulate the diverse definitions, interpretations, and implementations of 'homestay hosting' encountered in the literature (see Appendix III). This will serve as a crucial reference point, offering a consolidated view of how 'homestay hosting' is understood and applied by different researchers and practitioners in the field. Beyond merely summarizing these findings, the review will extend its analysis to include the development of diagrams. These visual aids, to be included in (Appendix IV), are designed to visually represent the relationships and connections between the various elements of refugee homestay hosting.

The diagramming effort aims to clarify how the specific aspects of homestay hosting interact with

the broader concept of family hosting and with each other. This visual mapping will not only make the complex interrelations more accessible but also highlight potential areas for further research or intervention. Complementing the tables and diagrams, a narrative summary will be provided to weave together the review's findings in a coherent format. This narrative will contextualize the evidence within the scope of the review's objectives, offering insights into how the concept of homestay hosting contributes to our understanding of refugee support mechanisms. It will explore the implications of the findings for policy, practice, and future research, particularly emphasizing the nuances of refugee experiences in homestay settings and the roles of host families. Through this multifaceted approach—combining tabular summaries, visual diagrams, and narrative synthesis—the scoping review will offer a comprehensive and nuanced exploration of refugee homestay hosting, thereby enriching the discourse on refugee accommodation and support strategies.

Discussion

This scoping review will shed light on the intricate relationship between homestay hosting environments and refugee well-being, offering new perspectives on how these arrangements affect refugees' lives. By dissecting the dynamics within homestay settings, our analysis will bring to the forefront the multifaceted ways in which these hosting arrangements influence refugee well-being. Such insights are invaluable for policymakers and practitioners tasked with crafting and executing refugee hosting programs and models, providing them with a deeper understanding of the elements that contribute to successful refugees' integration and support. Our findings will highlight critical areas ripe for further exploration, suggesting that while this review lays the groundwork, it also underscores the necessity for more focused research. Detailed investigations, particularly longitudinal studies, could elucidate the evolving nature of refugee well-being within homestay contexts, offering a clearer picture of long-term outcomes. Similarly, comparative analyses of various hosting models could reveal best practices, guiding the development of more effective and supportive hosting frameworks. While this scoping review opens the door to a better understanding of the complex interplay between homestay hosting and refugee well-being, it also highlights the critical need for ongoing research. Future studies, armed with the foundational knowledge provided by this review, have the potential to further dissect and enhance the nuances of the homestay-refugee relationship. Such research is crucial for refining hosting practices and policies, aiming for a more empathetic and effective approach to supporting refugees worldwide, ultimately contributing to their well-being and successful integration into host communities.

Implications

The implications of our review extend beyond academic discourse, offering actionable insights for policymakers, practitioners, and researchers alike. By advocating for tailored support mechanisms, clear policy guidelines, and further research into the long-term effects of homestay arrangements, this review sets the stage for future studies that can build on our findings. Ultimately, we hope that our work will pave the way for more empathetic, effective, and sustainable refugee support practices worldwide, ensuring that both refugees and their host families can thrive together in their shared communities.

Limitations

This review protocol is not without limitations. One significant constraint is the scope of literature reviewed, which may not encompass all existing studies on homestay hosting and refugee well-being due to language and publication date restrictions. Additionally, the inherent nature of scoping reviews to broadly map a field of study means that the depth of analysis on specific topics might be

limited and there will be no quality assessment of the selected resources. This limitation points to the necessity for targeted, in-depth studies that can build on the preliminary insights offered here. Furthermore, the diversity of homestay arrangements and refugee experiences across different cultural and geographical contexts may not be fully captured, highlighting the need for context-specific research to fully understand the nuances of homestay hosting and its impact on refugee well-being.

Conclusion

This scoping review will highlight the complex relationship between homestay hosting and refugee well-being, revealing both the potential and challenges of such arrangements. By examining the current state of research, the multifaceted nature of these hosting arrangements and their effects on both refugees and their host families will be illuminated. Our findings can highlight the critical need for policies and practices that are deeply informed by an understanding of these intricate dynamics, to support the well-being of refugees and their hosts effectively. Understanding the intricate dynamics of homestay hosting arrangements is crucial for developing policies and programs that support the well-being of refugees and the families that host them. This review will shed light on the current knowledge landscape, identifying research gaps and suggesting ways to enhance the homestay hosting experience for all parties involved. This review findings will inform the development of more inclusive, supportive, and effective approaches to refugee hosting, resettlement, and integration. To the best of our knowledge, this review represents the inaugural scoping review designed to explore the dynamic of homestay hosting and refugee wellbeing and the benefits such exploration brings to inform the development of refugee hosting models and practices.

Acknowledgments: We extend our sincere thanks to all authors who contributed to this protocol. Their expertise, unique insights, and commitment have been crucial in shaping and enriching this work. Each author's distinct knowledge and dedication have significantly enhanced the quality and depth of our discussion. We are grateful for their valuable contributions and the collaborative effort that made this protocol both informative and comprehensive. We affirm that ChatGPT was employed solely for the purpose of language enhancement in the preparation of this protocol. It did not generate content for the study protocol, contribute to ideation, or provide any statements or references used herein. ChatGPT is not listed as an author, and its use was strictly limited to linguistic improvements. We adhered to all applicable AI-related policies, regulations, and best practices in the use of this tool, ensuring that its application was in compliance with ethical standards for academic publication.

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Declarations: AA, YY, KM and SG are registered nurses and researchers deeply committed to issues of equity and social justice in practice and inquiry and situate themselves as immigrants working to support the health and well-being of refugee groups. The work of this scoping review represents a continuation of a program of research dedicated to supporting meaningful hosting, settlement and integration of refugee groups as a fundamental aspect of promoting and protecting their health and well-being.

Author contributions: AA contributed to conceptualization of the review topic; KM contributed to developing and running the search strategies; AA, YY, KM and SG contributed to developing the review methods and criteria and feedback for the search strategies and drafting and critical review of

the manuscript.

Availability of data: This review protocol's supporting data are shared in the manuscript appendices, enhancing transparency and understanding. These appendices include the Search Strategy, Data Extraction Tool/Instrument, Table of Key Findings, and Term Map Diagram, offering insights into our methodology, data analysis, findings, and conceptual framework. For further details or clarifications, readers are encouraged to contact the corresponding author.

Conflicts of interest: There is no conflict of interest or any personal, financial, professional, or intellectual bias for any of the authors listed on the manuscript or in this project.

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Appendices

Appendix I: Search strategy

Search conducted on CINAHL (EBSCO) on 13 December 2023.
 AB (Host* or (Host* N3 famil*) or homestay or cohabit* or foster* or (hospitality* N5 famil*) or accommo*)
 AND

AB (refugee* or asylum* or (displac* (person* or people*)))

AND (impact or effect or influence or outcome or result or experience or perception or benefit or challenges)

Language: English

Publication year: 2011-

Note: see table below for information on how the three-line search above was built up. Each search was first individually validated before being combined into a line of terms.

Search Development					
Search Philosophy: find roots from within the research question What is known from the existing literature about the experiences [search group 3] of refugees [search group 2] with homestay hosting [search group 1] ?					
Final search S8(abstract) AND S13(abstract) AND S23, limited to English and 2011 onwards					
Search	Group 1 host families and similar	Search	Group 2 refugees and similar	Search	Group 3 experiences and similar
S1	Host*	S9	Refugee*	S14	Impact
S2	Host* N3 famil*	S10	Asylum*	S15	Effect
S3	Homestay	S11	Displac* person*	S16	Influence
S4	Cohabit*	S12	Displac* people*	S17	Outcome
S5	Foster*	S13	S9 OR S10 OR S11 OR S12	S18	Result
S6	Hospitality* N5 family*			S19	Experience
S7	Accommo*			S20	perception
S8	S1 OR S2 OR S3 OR S4 OR S5 OR S6 OR S7			S21	benefit
				S22	challenges
				S23	S14 OR ... S22

Appendix II: Data extraction tool/instrument

Peer-reviewed Literature

Author Year/ time frame	Country/ study location	Study design	Aim/objective	Study population	Findings
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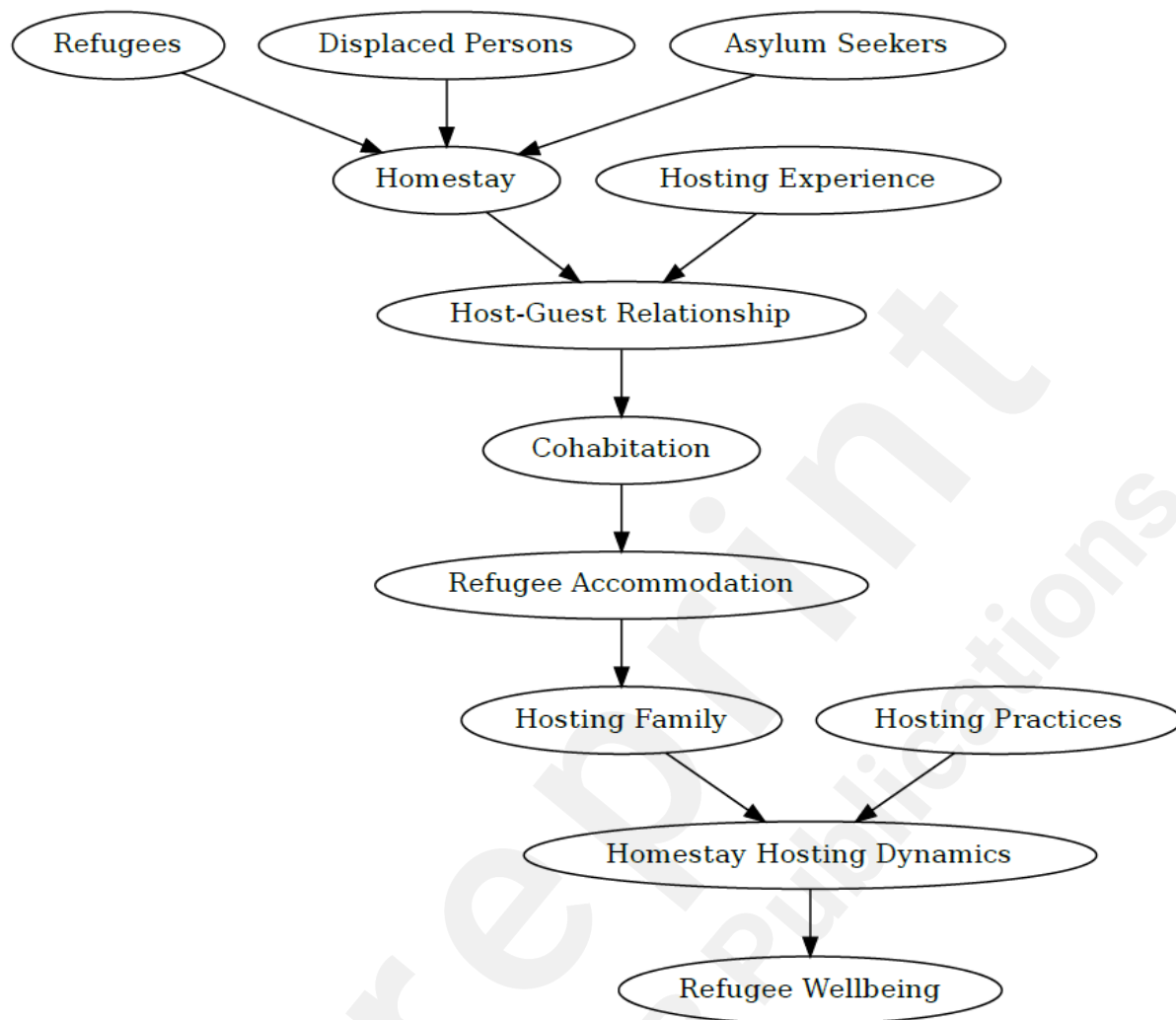
Grey Literature

Author/ time frame	Organization / Institution / study location	Study design	Focus	Study population	Key Findings
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Appendix III: Table of key findings

Author, year, study location	Study design	Aim/objective	Setting/ Study population	Application of term refugee homestay hosting
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Appendix IV: Term map diagram



Supplementary Files

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URL: <http://asset.jmir.pub/assets/a886d4729c5a012a5d215e4a7cd34112.docx>

Multimedia Appendixes

Untitled.

URL: <http://asset.jmir.pub/assets/b7f774c46a161c3ae5f217aa76dc971e.docx>

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URL: <http://asset.jmir.pub/assets/c17dad8fb05a4ffa6c6582aa1cbca92e.docx>

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Untitled.

URL: <http://asset.jmir.pub/assets/dff2eae26f6266d4818a86a51b1e3488.docx>

Existing Peer-Review Reports from Funding Agencies (for protocols/proposals only)s

URL: <http://asset.jmir.pub/assets/6fc513292dac6b17424eda158002b831.pdf>

URL: <http://asset.jmir.pub/assets/c9d756e5f23397b607919211a87d5009.pdf>