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Cultivating Community: Experiences of African Refugee Gardeners

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Cultivating Community: Experiences of African Refugee Gardeners

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Food
Security

(Lawson 2005)

Cultural
Safe-haven

(Burgess 2016)

Community Gardening

Community
Engagement

(Sbicca 2014)





**Refugees
+
Community
Gardening**

**Food
Security**

(Draper & Freedman 2012)

**Cultural
Preservation**

(Draper & Freedman 2012;
Agustine & Beilin 2012)

**How does community
gardening at the Housing
Authority of Bowling Green
foster community and improve
food security among refugee
families?**



Methods

19 Plots

- 18 African Refugees
- 1 Iraqi Refugee

13 Participants

- Semi-Structured Interviews
- Water
- ~60 minutes



Methods + Participants

- **24-60 years old**
 - 6 males, 7 females
- **Country of origin**
 - 8 Burundi, 5 DRC
 - ~4 years in the US



Methods + Participants

- Interviews conducted in Swahili, recorded, translated, and transcribed
- Interviews coded, patterns and themes extrapolated using content analysis



Results

Gardening Needs

Watering Issues
Need for more space
Need for seeds

Food Security

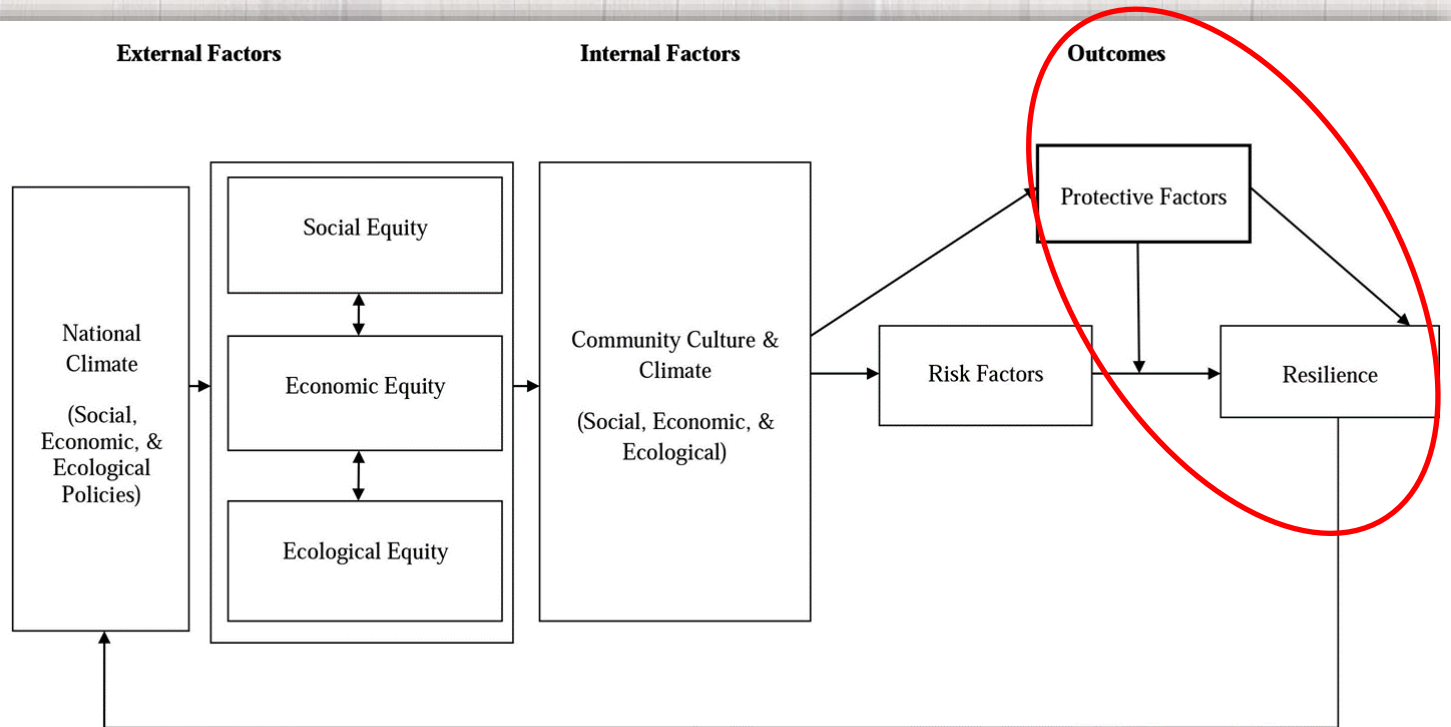
Produce Use
Need for supplementary foods

Sense of Community

Cultural
Traditional v. American
Good and bad memories
Access to traditional foods



So what?



Questions?



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