

1ST AFRICA FOOD ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH NETWORK MEETING | FERN 2020

**THEME: Connecting Food Environment
Researchers across Africa**

November 3 – 5, 2020
A Virtual Meeting Via Zoom



PROGRAM

BROCHURE
NOVEMBER 2020

MEALS4NCDs
Providing Measurement, Evaluation, Accountability
& Leadership Support (MEALS) for NCDs Prevention
meals4ncds.org

WELCOME MESSAGE FROM THE MEALS4NCDs PROJECT TEAM

Dear Colleagues,

We are delighted to welcome everyone to the First Africa Food Environment Research Network meeting (#FERN2020).

This meeting aims to connect researchers in Africa and the Global North whose work relates directly or indirectly to improving food environments in Africa and other low-and-middle-income countries (LMICs).

In recent decades, rapid urbanization, globalization, coupled with changes in food environments, is driving a nutrition transition in Africa. Dietary habits of people are shifting towards unhealthy foods high in calories and low in nutrients, which is contributing to increasing rates of obesity and associated diet-related non-communicable diseases (DR-NCDs).

Africa needs policies designed to create supportive food environments for healthy food choices for everyone. Research on how food environments are experienced by people can be policy-influencing. Elsewhere, evidence shows that food environments inside children and adolescents' homes, schools or communities routinely influence their food consumption. Generation of local/contextual evidence can provide insights into which policies may be more effective in combating DR-NCDs.

Over the next three days, we will share experiences and opportunities in food environment research and stimulate capacity building, in particular among younger researchers.

We hope that your participation in FERN 2020 will result in new knowledge and research collaborations towards creating healthier food environments in Africa and beyond! On this note, please receive my wishes (on behalf of the MEALS4NCDs Team) for a stimulating, and a productive meeting.

Thank you.

*Amos Laar, Ph.D
Principal Investigator
MEALS4NCDs Project*

ABOUT MEALS4NCDs PROJECT

The MEALS4NCDs [Providing Measurement, Evaluation, Accountability, & Leadership Support (MEALS) for NCDs prevention] Project aims to measure and support public sector actions that create healthy food marketing and food provision environments for children and adolescents in Ghana, to prevent obesity and other diet-related NCDs.

Presently, the project is implementing the Food Promotion and Food Provision modules developed by the International Network for Food and Obesity, NCDs, Research, Monitoring and Action Support (INFORMAS); and The Community Readiness Model (CRM) developed by researchers at the Tri-Ethnic Center for Prevention Research, Colorado State University.

Please find out more about the project's objectives and work packages at the following link: <https://www.meals4ncds.org/en/project-overview/>



PROGRAM: DAY 1

November 3, 2020 | 12:00 GMT – 4:00 GMT (+ 00)

MODERATORS

Professor Richmond Aryeetey (12:00-14:00)

Professor Michelle Holdsworth (14:05-16:00)

12:00-12:15	Opening/Overview of Meeting Objectives Providing Measurements, Evaluation, Accountability, & Leadership Support (MEALS) for NCDs Prevention: Lessons from Ghana	Prof. Amos Laar
12:15-12:20	FERN Launch	Prof. Kwasi Torpey
12:20-12:35	Dr. Christopher Turner Research Fellow in Food Systems and Public Health Nutrition Natural Resources Institute, University of Greenwich, UK Topic: <i>Food environment research in LMICs: concepts and emerging evidence</i>	Prof. Richmond Aryeetey
12:35-12:50	Dr. Hibbah Osei-Kwasi AXA Postdoctoral Fellow University of Sheffield, UK Topic: <i>Development of the African food environment framework</i>	
12:50-13:05	Dr. Mark Spires Research Fellow Centre for Food Policy, City, University of London, UK Topic: <i>Approaches to understanding lived experiences of food environments: a Community of Practice</i>	
13:05-13:15	Prof. Christine Blake Associate Professor University of South Carolina, USA Topic:	
13:15-13:30	Mr. Dominic Rowland Research Fellow UKRI GCRF action against stunting Hub, UK Topic: <i>Preview of Preliminary Food Environment Experience Metric</i>	
13:30-13:40	Dr. Gershim Asiki Research Scientist (Medical Epidemiologist) African Population and Health Research Center, Nairobi, Kenya Topic: <i>Developing a package of effective regulatory interventions for healthier food environments in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda</i>	
13:40-14:00	Q & A session/open discussion	ALL
14:00 -14:05	Short break	

PROGRAM: DAY 1 (Cont'd)

November 3, 2020 | 12:00 GMT – 4:00 GMT (+ 00)

MODERATORS

Professor Richmond Aryeetey (12:00-14:00)

Professor Michelle Holdsworth (14:05-16:00)

14:05 -14:10	<p>Dr. Isabel Madzorera Postdoctoral Researcher Harvard School of Public Health, USA Topic:</p>	<p>Prof. Michelle Holdsworth</p>
14:10 -14:20	<p>Prof. Charles Agyemang Professor Academic Medical Centre, University of Amsterdam, Netherlands Topic:</p>	
14:20 -14:30	<p>Prof. Adama Diouf Professor University Cheikh Anta Diop, Dakar, Senegal Topic:</p>	
14:30 -14:40	<p>Dr. Namukolo Covic Senior Research Coordinator International Food Policy Research Institute, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia Topic: <i>Food system transformation using diet quality as an entry point: lessons for work on food environments</i></p>	
14:40 -14:50	<p>Name(s): Prof. Felix Asante¹ and Mr. Makafui Dzudzor² ¹Professor and Pro Vice Chancellor ¹Office of Research, Innovation and Development, University of Ghana ²PhD student, ZEF ²University of Bonn, Germany Topic: <i>Partnerships for Healthy Diets and Nutrition in Urban African Food Systems – evidence and strategies – The NOURICITY Project</i></p>	
14:50 -15:00	<p>Dr. Reginald Annan Senior Lecturer School of Public Health, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana Topic:</p>	
15:00 -15:10	<p>Prof. Richmond Aryeetey Associate Professor School of Public Health, University of Ghana Topic: <i>Development of Food-Based Dietary Guidelines in Ghana: A Learning Journey</i></p>	
15:10 -16:00	Q & A session/open discussion	ALL
16:00	Adjourn	

PROGRAM: DAY 2

November 4, 2020 | 12:00 GMT – 4:00 GMT (+ 00)

MODERATORS

Dr. Gershim Asiki (12:00 -15:20)

Dr. Kobby Mensah (15:20 -16:00)

1:00 – 14:00	CAPACITY BUILDING EXERCISE	Dr. Stefanie Vandevijvere
	Introduce FERN delegates to the INFORMAS' Healthy Food Environment Policy Index (Food-EPI)	
	Q & A session	
14:00 -14:05	Short break	
14:05 – 14:15	Mr. Sukati Mphumuzi Senior Nutrition and Food Systems Officer FAO Regional Office for Africa, Accra Ghana Topic:	Dr. Gershim Asiki
14:15 – 14:30	Prof Karen Hofman Professor and Director of PRICELESS SA SA MRC/ Wits Centre for Health Economics and Decision Topic: <i>Sugar-sweetened beverages (SSB) tax process in South Africa</i>	
14:30 – 14:40	Mr. Peiman Milani Consultant Rockefeller Foundation Topic:	
14:40 – 14:50	Mr. John Nortey Deputy Director Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Statistics, Research and Information Directorate, Ghana Topic:	
14:50-15:00	Dr. Nicholas Bricas Researcher CIRAD, UMR Moisa, Montpellier, France Topic: <i>Food safety issues in food healthy environments for NCD prevention</i>	
15:00 – 15:20	Q & A session/open discussion	ALL

PROGRAM: DAY 2 (Cont'd)

November 4, 2020 | 12:00 GMT – 4:00 GMT (+ 00)

MODERATORS

Dr. Gershim Asiki (12:00-14:00)

Dr. Kobby Mensah (14:05-16:00)

	SELECTED COUNTRY EXPERIENCES	
15:20 – 15:25	Prof. Kenneth Yongabi Anchang Professor Imo State University, Nigeria Topic:	Dr. Kobby Mensah
15:25 – 15:30	Dr. Ali Jafri Assistant Professor Mohammed VI University of Health Sciences, Casablanca, Morocco Topic:	
15:30 – 15:35	Dr. Muniirah Mbabazi Researcher Nutrisat, Uganda Topic:	
15:35 – 15:40	Dr. Meenal Dhall Assistant Professor University of Delhi, India Topic: <i>Nutrition and food habits of African and Indian population: An Anthropological perspective</i>	
15:40 - 15:50	Q & A session	
16:00	Adjourn	
16:00 – 17:00	SIDE EVENT – A consultation on the development of an instrument for measuring food environments in LMICs	Chair: Prof. Edward Frongillo Co-Chair: Prof. Suneetha Kadiyala



PROGRAM: DAY 3

November 5, 2020 | 12:00 GMT – 4:00 GMT (+ 00)

MODERATOR

Professor Francis Zotor (12:00-16:00)

12:00 – 14:00	CAPACITY BUILDING EXERCISE	Prof. Amanda Lee
	Introduce FERN delegates to INFORMAS' Food Prices Module	
	Q & A session	
14:00 -14:10	Short break	
14:10 – 14:20	Vanessa Nigten Knowledge Broker Netherlands Food Partnership Topic: <i>Overview of the Netherlands Food Partnership work on Ghanaian Food Environments</i>	Prof. Francis Zotor
	14:20 – 16:00	
16:00	Closing	Prof. Amos Laar



OUR TEAM

INVESTIGATORS

This MEALS4NCDs project is a collaboration between 10 researchers from 7 academic and research institutions across Ghana, Kenya, Netherlands, France, and Belgium.

University of Ghana, Ghana (Lead Institution)



Prof. Amos Laar
*Project Principal Investigator/
Project Leader*
Associate Professor
School of Public Health
University of Ghana



Prof. Richmond Aryeetey
Co-Investigator
Professor
School of Public Health
University of Ghana



Dr. Matilda Essandoh Laar
Co-Investigator
Lecturer in Human Nutrition
Department of Family and
Consumer Sciences
University of Ghana



Dr. Kobby Mensah
Co-Investigator
Senior Lecturer
Department of Marketing &
Entrepreneurship
University of Ghana
Business School

University of Health and Allied Sciences, Ghana



Professor Francis Zotor
Co-Investigator
Professor of Public
Health Nutrition
University of Health and
Allied Sciences, Ghana

Ghana Health Service, Ghana



Dr. Dennis Laryea
Co-Investigator
Non-Communicable Diseases
Programme. Disease Control
and Prevention Department,
Public Health Division

African Population and Health Research Center, Kenya



Dr. Gershim Asiki
Co-Investigator
African Population and
Health Research Center
(APHRC)

University of Toronto



Professor Daniel Stellen
Co-Investigator
University of Toronto
Canada

University of Amsterdam, Netherlands



Professor Charles Agyemang
Co-Investigator Academic
Medical Center University
of Amsterdam

National Research Institute for Sustainable Development (IRD), France



Professor Michelle Holdsworth
Co-Investigator
National Research Institute
for Sustainable
Development (IRD)

Sciensano Research Institute, Belgium



Dr. Stefanie Vandevijvere
Co-Investigator
Sciensano Research
Institute

PROJECT STAFF/EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS



Dr. Phyllis Addo
Postdoctoral Fellow
School of Public Health
University of Ghana



Akua Tandoh
Project Associate
Doctoral student



Wilhemina Quarpong
Project Associate



Gideon Senyo Amevinya
Monitoring and
Evaluation Specialist



Silver Wendsoo Nanema
Research Assistant

IT SUPPORT STAFF



Emmanuel K. Hammond
Information Specialist
Infoconsult,
Accra, Ghana

SUPPORTED GRADUATE STUDENTS



Krystal Rampalli
Ph.D Candidate
University of South Carolina



Zuwera Zankawah
Master of Public Health
University of Ghana



Akosua Pokua Adjei
Master of Public Health
University of Ghana

ADVISORY BOARD

This project is supported in process and methodology by the expertise of a high-level Project Advisory Board to ensure the research team achieves its objectives. The Board's role will be crucial in providing expert guidance in relation to the implementation of the project, dissemination and future plans to scale-up the innovation and implement the project's findings in other countries.

CURRENT ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS



Professor Mary L'Abbe
Project Advisory Board Chair
INFORMAS Food Provision Module Leader
Earle W. McHenry Professor, and Chair, Department of Nutritional Sciences, Faculty of Medicine University of Toronto, Canada



Mrs. Mary Mpereh
National Development Planning Commission
Ghana



Dr. Emmanuel Ankrah Odame
Ministry of Health
Ghana



Dr. (Mrs). Beatrice Wiafe Addai
Ghana NCD Alliance
Ghana



Professor Kaleab Baye
Center for Food Science and Nutrition
Addis Ababa University
Ethiopia



Mr. Issah Ali
Vison for Alternative Development (VALD)
Ghana



Dr. Namukolo Covic
International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)
Ethiopia



Ms. Lilian Selenje
Nutrition Manager
UNICEF Ghana



Mrs. Delese Darko
Chief Executive Officer
Food and Drugs Authority
Ghana



Ms. Joana Ansong
World Health Organisation
Ghana Country Office



Dr. Rebecca Pradeilles
Senior Research Associate
Loughborough University



Professor Bridget Kelly
INFORMAS Food Promotion Module Leader
University of Wollongong
Wollongong, Australia

DESIGNATED IDRC REPRESENTATIVE



Dr. Samuel Oti, MD, PhD
Senior Program Specialist
Global Health Program Division
International Development Research Centre (IDRC)



Hon. (Dr) Sebastian Ngmenenso Sandaare
Member of Parliament and Member, of Parliamentary Select Committee on Health, Ghana



For more information on FERN 2020, please visit <https://www.meals4ncds.org/en/fern-meeting-2020/>

Follow us on Twitter and Facebook for regular [#FERN2020](#) updates: @meals4ncd

FUNDING ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This project MEALS4NCDs is funded by The International Development Research Centre (IDRC) Food, Environment, and Health Program – IDRC, Canada.



International Development Research Centre
Centre de recherches pour le développement international



MEALS4NCDs PARTNERS

University of Ghana; University of Health and Allied Sciences; Ghana Health Service; Africa African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC), Kenya; National Research Institute for Sustainable Development (IRD), France; Amsterdam University Medical Centers, University of Amsterdam, Netherlands; Sciensano, Belgium, University of Toronto. Details of the study partners can be found here <https://www.meals4ncds.org/en/project-investigators/>.



ORGANIZER

MEALS4NCDs Project is the organizer/convenor of the Food Environment Research Network Meeting (FERN Meeting)



Address: MEALS4NCDs Secretariat
School of Public Health, University of Ghana
P. O. Box LG 13, Legon, Accra, Ghana

Tel.: +23324 845 0626, +233 20 078 4676
Email: info@meals4ncds.org
Website: www.meals4ncds.org
Social Media: @meals4ncds