

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 **M**easurement, **E**valuation, **A**ccountability, & **L**eadership **S**upport (**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: <i>Understanding Drivers of Food Choice: What, How, and Why do People Eat the Way they do?</i>	
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	Dr. Isabel Madzorera Postdoctoral Researcher Harvard School of Public Health, USA Topic: <i>Diet Quality for Women: Relation to Adverse Birth Outcomes in Tanzania</i>	Prof. Michelle Holdsworth
14:10 -14:20	Prof. Charles Agyemang Professor Academic Medical Centre, University of Amsterdam, Netherlands Topic: <i>Research on Obesity and Diabetes among African Migrants (RODAM Study)</i>	
14:20 -14:30	Prof. Adama Diouf Professor University Cheikh Anta Diop, Dakar, Senegal Topic: <i>Evaluation of Public Policies for the Creation of Healthy Food Environments in Senegal: Results and Perspectives</i>	
14:30 -14:40	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>	
14:40 -14:50	Name(s): Prof. Felix Asante¹ and Mr. Makafui Dzudzor² ¹ Professor and Pro Vice Chancellor ¹ Office of Research, Innovation and Development, University of Ghana ² PhD student, ZEF ² University of Bonn, Germany Topic: <i>Partnerships for Healthy Diets and Nutrition in Urban African Food Systems – evidence and strategies – The NOURICITY Project</i>	
14:50 -15:00	Dr. Reginald Annan Senior Lecturer School of Public Health, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana Topic: <i>Exploring Ghana's Food Environment: Researching Obesogenic Food Environments in Ghana</i>	
15:00 -15:10	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>	
15:10 -16:00	Q & A session/open discussion	
16:00	Adjourn	ALL

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)

12:00 – 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: <i>Ending Hunger Initiative: Updates from FAORAF</i>	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: <i>Improving Diet Quality across Food Environment</i>	
14:40 – 14:50	Mr. John Nortey Deputy Director Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Statistics, Research and Information Directorate, Ghana Topic: <i>Monitoring the Cost of Nutritious Diets: Updates from MoFA-SRID</i>	
14:50-15:00	Dr. Nicholas Bricas Researcher CIRAD, UMR Moisa, Montpellier, France Topic: <i>How Social Sciences can Contribute to Food Environment Studies</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: <i>Changing Food Environments to Prevent NCDs in Morocco: Initiatives to Lower Sodium Intake</i>	
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	Prof. Francis Zotor
14:10 – 14:20	Vanessa Nigten Knowledge Broker Netherlands Food Partnership Topic: <i>Ghanaian Urban Food Environments Coalitions: Short overview of Netherlands Food Partnership Work</i>	
14:20 – 14:30	Prof. Francis Zotor Professor of Public Health Nutrition Head, Department of Family and Community Health University of Health & Allied Sciences Council Member, International Union of Nutritional Sciences Topic: <i>Moving the Nutrition Agenda for Africa's Development</i>	
14:30 – 16:00	Current Food Environment Research Agenda/Priorities for Africa	Prof. Amos Laar
16:00	Closing	



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)



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*Project Principal Investigator/
Project Leader*
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Prof. Richmond Aryeetey
Co-Investigator
Professor
School of Public Health
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Dr. Matilda Essandoh Laar
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Lecturer in Human Nutrition
Department of Family and
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Professor Daniel Stellen
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Professor Charles Agyemang
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Professor Michelle Holdsworth
Co-Investigator
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Dr. Stefanie Vandevijvere
Co-Investigator
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PROJECT STAFF/EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS



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Postdoctoral Fellow



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Doctoral Student



Wilhemina Quarpong
Project Associate



Gideon Senyo Amevinya
Monitoring and
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Silver W. H. Nanema
Research Assistant

IT SUPPORT



Emmanuel K. Hammond
Information Specialist

SUPPORTED GRADUATE STUDENTS



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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



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Member of Parliament and Member, of Parliamentary Select Committee on Health, Ghana

DESIGNATED IDRC REPRESENTATIVE



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

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IDRC | CRDI

International Development Research Centre
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Canada

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)



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