

Food Environments Working Group Impact Case Study

The ANH Food Environment Working Group (ANH-FEWG) brought together food environment experts to review and synthesise working definitions, key concepts, methodological approaches and current research gaps. The Working Group aimed to provide a platform of consensus to guide and accelerate food environment research in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs).

At the time, there were only a handful of research groups looking at food environments. There was limited conceptual grounding within the field and no globally applicable framework. As a result, there was a lack of clarity and consistency in the concepts and terminology in use. Methods and metrics were also disparate, and in the case of LMIC contexts were in their infancy.

The Working Group developed a **technical brief** in consultation with the agriculture, nutrition and health community. The technical brief featured a globally applicable framework and outlined the key elements of food environment research in an accessible and adaptable format. The framework and narrative were further refined and published in the journal *Global Food Security* in 2018. The framework was a success story, now widely used by the research community. It has even been picked up by frontier topic audiences, demonstrating its applicability and utility. Food Environments research has since grown, and the careers of future leaders were developed.

Working group details

COLLABORATORS

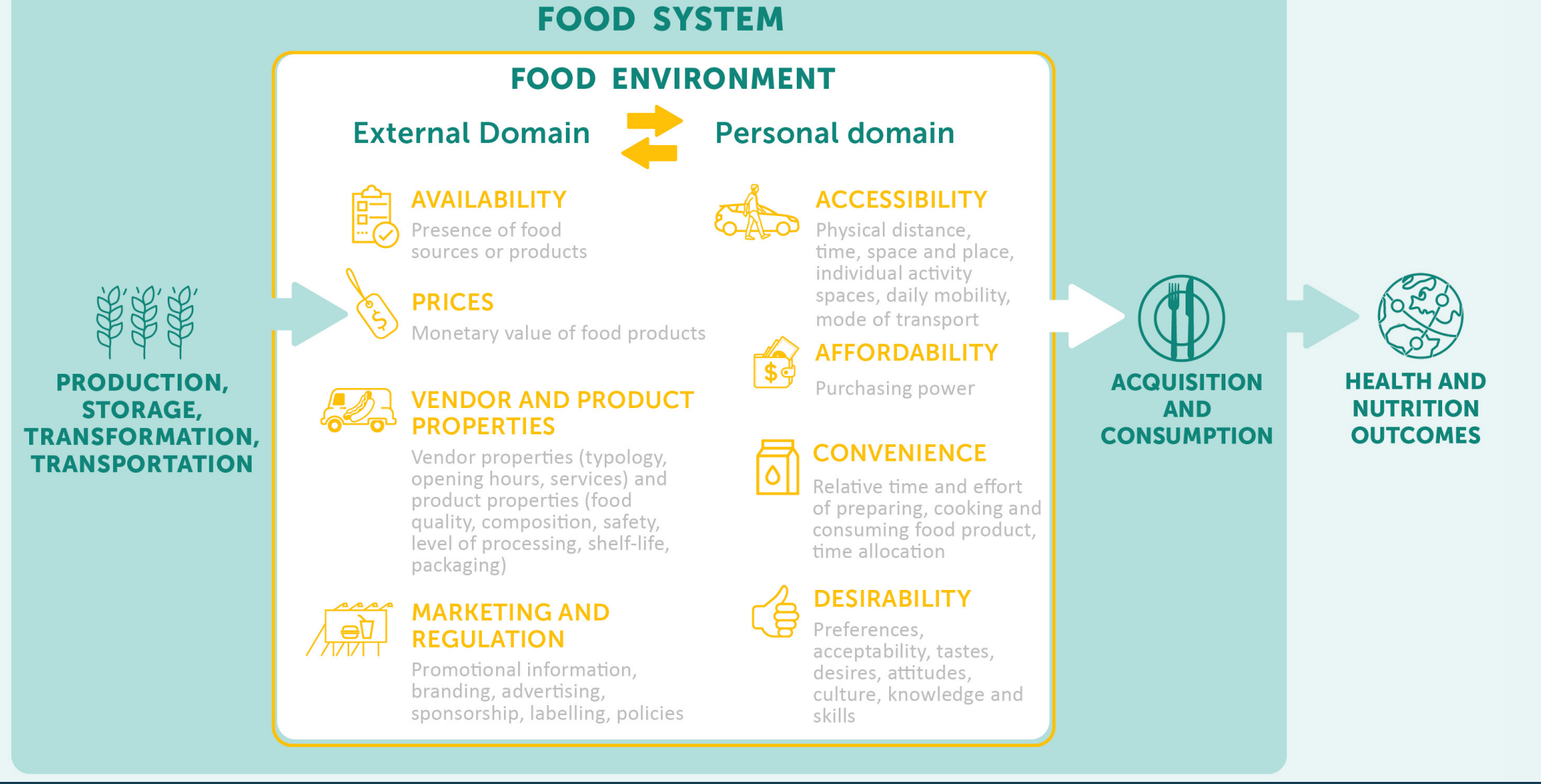
- **Chris Turner***, Senior Lecturer in Food Systems and Public Health Nutrition, NRI, University of Greenwich
- **Suneetha Kadiyala**, Professor of Global Nutrition, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine

*The FEWG was led by Chris Turner during his PhD project: *Investigating food environments and drivers of food acquisition in low- and middle-income countries: The case of peri-urban Hyderabad, Telangana, India*

GROUP MEMBERS

- **Adam Drawnowski**, Professor & Director of the Center for Public Health Nutrition and the Center for Obesity Research, University of Washington
- **Anna Herforth**, Senior researcher and consultant specialising in agriculture, food systems and nutrition
- **Anju Aggarwal**, Affiliate Assistant Professor, Epidemiology, University of Washington
- **Corinna Hawkes**, Professor of Food Policy, Director, Centre for Food Policy, City University, London
- **Helen Walls**, Associate Professor of Global Health and Food Systems, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine
- **Jennifer Coates**, Associate Professor of Food Policy and Applied Nutrition, Tufts Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy
- **Sofia Kalamatianou**, Research Assistant, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine

The FEWG conceptual framework. The framework depicts the food environment as the interface within the wider food system. Key dimensions are mapped to external and personal domains. Interactions between these domains and dimensions shape people's food acquisition and consumption.



Timeline

- Engagement with policy and practice
- Uptake by researchers
- Student engagement
- Working group outputs

2016

The Food Environments Working Group (ANH-FEWG) is established.

The EAT-Addis study (2015-2023)



Learning Lab at ANH2016 – food environments framework consultation

2017

Royal Geographical Society's Annual International Conference

FEWG animation is published online



Technical brief is published containing the initial FEWG conceptual framework and methodology

2018

Food Systems for Children and Adolescents Unicef & GAIN interim summary report published

Journal article is published in *Global Food Security* introducing the updated conceptual framework and implications for future research in LMICs

UNICEF & GAIN Innocenti Framework consultation by Chris Turner. Innocenti framework references FEWG definition of food environments

2019

The EAT-Addis study led by Magnus Jirström engaged with the framework for research design and analysis

Food environments: Where people meet the food system United Nations System Standing Committee on Nutrition report published

UNSCN NUTRITION features the framework and concept paper

ANH2019 Transitioning food environments presentation



Map your school food environment project LSHTM competitive public engagement grants scheme

2020

Systematic scoping review published in *Advances in Nutrition*

Chris Turner PhD thesis is published

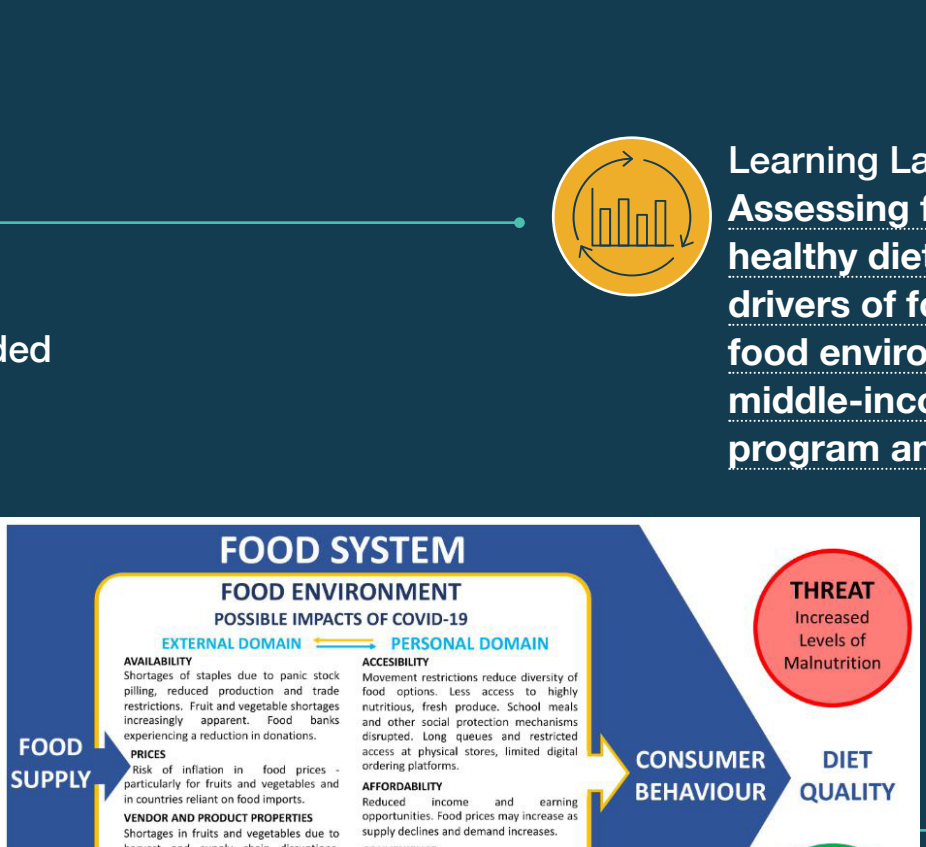
SHIFT framework consultation attended by Chris Turner

Learning Labs at ANH2020: Assessing food environments for healthy diets and Understanding drivers of food choice in changing food environments of low- and middle-income countries to inform program and policy



FERN conference presentation of the framework

UNSCN news article on impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on food environments featuring an adapted version of the FEWG framework



Food environments: Where people meet the food system

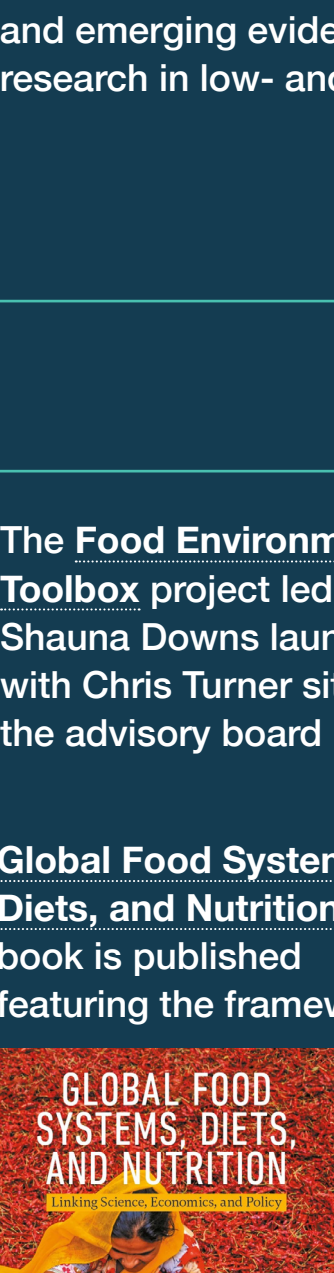
Experience Metric presented by the GCRF Stunting Hub in collaboration with the FEWG

Micronutrient Forum Conference Presentation. Food choice in context: Concepts, methods and emerging evidence from food environment research in low- and middle-income countries

2021

The Food Environment Toolbox project led by Shauna Downs launches with Chris Turner sitting on the advisory board

Global Food Systems, Diets, and Nutrition book is published featuring the framework



Drivers of Food Choice paper co-led by Shilpa Constantinides and Chris Turner synthesising perspectives on the FEWG framework

Westbury et al. (2021) applied the framework to guide their systematic review

In Granheim et al., (2021) the framework provided the departure point and structure for this scoping review

SAFOODS led by Ariéne Alpha launches with Chris Turner as a collaborator

Keeping colour on the plate project led by Jody Harris launches using the framework to guide research design and analysis

University of Greenwich research seminar series. Food environment research in low- and middle-income countries: Concepts, methods and emerging evidence

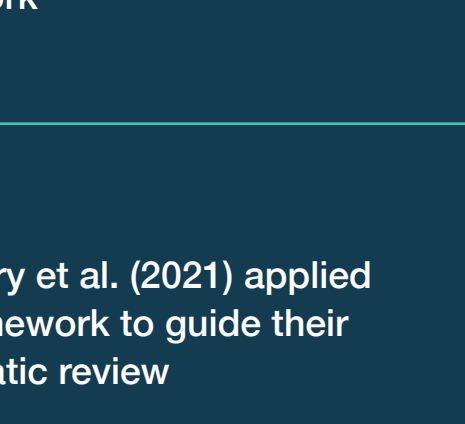


FERN 2021 ANH Academy partnership and presentation of an adapted framework for food system plastics

2022

Health & Place article on Chris Turner's PhD research is published

ICN2022 – Chris Turner presents the frameworks and Shauna Downs presents the Food Environment Toolbox



SHIFT framework launches with content and colour scheme referenced to FEWG framework

2023

ANH2023 Food Environments side event framework consultation



Published work

JOURNAL ARTICLES

Turner, C., Kalamatianou, S., Drawnowski, A., Kulkarni, B., Kinra, S., & Kadiyala, S. (2020). Food environment research in low-and middle-income countries: a systematic scoping review. *Advances in Nutrition*, 11(2), 387-397.

Turner, C., Aggarwal, A., Walls, H., Herforth, A., Drawnowski, A., Coates, J., Kalamatianou, S., & Kadiyala, S. (2018). Concepts and critical perspectives for food environment research: A global framework with implications for action in low- and middle-income countries. In *Global Food Security* (Vol. 18, pp. 93-101). Elsevier B.V.

TECHNICAL BRIEF

Turner, C., Kadiyala, S., Aggarwal, A., Coates, J., Drawnowski, A., Hawkes, C., Herforth, A., Kalamatianou, S., & Walls, H. (2017). *Concepts and methods for food environment research in low- and middle-income countries*. Agriculture, Nutrition and Health Academy Food Environments Working Group (ANH-FEWG).

Constantinides, S.V.*, Turner, C.*, Frongillo, E.A., Bhandari, S., Reyes, L., Blake, O.E. (2021) Using a global food environment framework to understand relationships with food choice in diverse low- and middle-income countries. *Global Food Security*, 29, DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gfs.2021.100511>

JOURNAL ARTICLES FEATURING THE FRAMEWORK AS A FIGURE

Turner, C., Salm, L., Spire, M., Laar, A., Holdsworth, M. (in-preparation) Capturing the moment: A snapshot review of contemporary food environment research featuring participatory photography methods. *Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability*.

Turner, C. Bhogadi, S., Walls, H. Surendran, S., Kulkarni, B. Kinra, S., Kadiyala, S. (2022) Drivers of food acquisition practices in the food environment of peri-urban Hyderabad, India: A qualitative investigation. *Health and Place*, 74, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.healthplace.2022.102763>

THESIS

Turner, C. (2020) *Investigating food environments and drivers of food acquisition in low- and middle-income countries: The case of peri-urban Hyderabad, Telangana, India*. London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. PhD Thesis.