EXTERNAL FOOD ENVIRONMENTS
(Retail and commercial markets, schools, informal food vendors)

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INFLUENCERS

Availability and accessibility of food
Presence of and proximity to markets and food outlets

Price of food
Monetary value of food

Food quality and safety
Level of processing, shelf-life packaging and food composition

Marketing and regulation
Promotional information, branding, advertising, sponsorship and labelling
The food environment

The “interface” between the food system and the consumer

Food environment domains and dimensions. Modified from Turner et al., 2017
The external food environment

- **Availability**
  - Presence of food
- **Prices**
  - Monetary values of food
- **Marketing and Regulation**
  - Branding, advertising, labelling, policies
- **Vendor and Product Properties**
  - Opening hours, services
  - Quality, safety, shelf-life

Food environment domains and dimensions. Modified from Turner et al., 2017
External food environments in LMICs

• Co-existence of formal and informal markets
  • Increase in supermarket penetration
    • Likely contributing to the nutrition transition
      • Shift in diets through supermarket shopping
      • Different nutritional effects on adults and children, depending on initial situation
    → (Example Kenya: Debela et al., 2018, Demmler et al., 2018, 2017)
  • Possibility of increase in food security and food safety

• Informal food vendors remain a key source of diverse foods
Examples of interventions

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Examples of interventions
I. Possible interventions

- **Availability**
  - Promote local food production
  - Incorporate in school-feeding programs
  - Increase availability of healthy food choices in fast food chains
  - Zoning laws to regulate density of fast-food restaurants

- **Prices**
  - Taxes
    - Sugar-sweetened beverage
  - Subsidies
    - Fruits and vegetables

Source: Colchero *et al.*, 2016; HLPE, 2017; Sumberg and Sabates-Wheeler, 2011; Webb and Block, 2011
II. Possible interventions

- **Marketing and Regulation**
  - Placing and packaging of products
    - Package design – colourful and fun
  - Advertisements banned for children/schools

- **Labelling**
  - Example Chile – black labels as warnings

- **Vendor and Product Properties**
  - New technologies might help to increase food safety
  - Safer drinking water initiatives
  - Urban street food - licences to vendors

Source: HLPE, 2017; IPES-Food, 2017; Malabo Montpellier Panel, 2018; Valdebenito et al., 2017
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Potential intervention priorities
Priorities for interventions targeting children/adolescents

- **Availability**
  - Zoning laws reducing density of fast-food restaurants
  - School feeding programs

- **Prices**
  - Taxing of sugar-sweetened beverages

- **Marketing**
  - Package design, placements
  - Advertisement banning

- **Vendor and Product Properties**
  - Increase in food safety (vendors and water quality)

- **Household food consumption → smaller children**
- **Food away from home → adolescents**
- **Food systems (traditional, mixed, modern)**
References


