

PURNIMA MENON

Poverty, Health and Nutrition Division
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EDUCATION

Cornell University, Ithaca, NY

PhD, International Nutrition, 2002 (Minors: Epidemiology & Human Development)

Lady Irwin College, University of New Delhi, New Delhi

MSc, Foods & Nutrition, 1994

Ethiraj College, University of Madras, Madras

BSc, Nutrition and Dietetics, 1991

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Washington, D.C.

Research Fellow, Food Consumption and Nutrition Division & New Delhi Office, Sept 2007 to present

- Overall research focus: Develop and coordinate a South Asia based policy and program research agenda on linkages between gender, poverty and nutrition, with a focus on direct nutrition interventions, social protection and other programs.
- Project lead for: 1) POSHAN (Partnerships and Opportunities to Strengthen and Harmonize Actions for Nutrition in India); 2) Measurement, learning and evaluation (MLE) of *Alive and Thrive*, an initiative to improve infant and young child feeding at scale in Bangladesh, Viet Nam and Ethiopia; 3) Evaluation of market-based approaches to distributing micronutrient powders in Bangladesh; 4) Patterns and trends in undernutrition in India.

Division of Nutritional Sciences, Cornell University

Courtesy Associate Professor, May 2011-present

Courtesy Assistant Professor, June 2008 to May 2011.

Research Associate, April 2006 – December 2007

- Advise students, liaise with faculty, staff and students on nutrition research in Asia. (ongoing)
- Co-direct and coordinate US-based activities of the Mainstreaming Nutrition Initiative, a project on developing strategies for mainstreaming nutrition into health sector policies and programs globally (completed)
- Analysis and synthesis of key issues in fortification and global nutrition (for the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation nutrition strategy for 2007-2010). (completed)

International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Washington, D.C.

Consultant, December 2001 to present

- Collaborator on an assessment of the feasibility and desirability of implementing a conditional cash transfer program in Haiti.
- Coordinated (1) an evaluation comparing the nutritional impact, cost-effectiveness and operations of preventive versus recuperative models of targeting food assistance and behavior change communication in rural Haiti (2001-2006) and (2) an evaluation of the effectiveness of micronutrient Sprinkles in reducing anemia among rural Haitian children 6-24 months who also receive fortified food aid commodities (2004-2005). Responsibilities included co-writing grant proposals, coordinating overall project activities, designing and supervising field data collection, conducting analysis and preparation of donor reports, publications and conference presentations.

UNICEF, New York.

Consultant, July 2002 to Dec 2002

- Prepared background paper for a consultation on the development of survey-based measures of psychosocial care practices, coordinated expert consultation, prepared a workshop report, and initiated testing of survey measures in various countries.

Division of Nutritional Sciences, Cornell University

Research Assistant, June 1999-August 2000

- In collaboration with a senior researcher at IFPRI, analyzed data from 7 countries to develop a simple index to assess the adequacy of infant and young child feeding practices. Prepared journal manuscript for publication.

Food Consumption and Nutrition Division, IFPRI, Washington, D.C.

Consultant, June 1998-August 1998

- Analyzed data from 10 countries to examine intra-urban and intra-rural differentials in undernutrition, prepared journal manuscript for publication.

Food Consumption and Nutrition Division, IFPRI, Washington, D.C.

Intern, December 1995-July 1996

- Assisted with a literature review on child care and nutrition in developing countries, and co-authored a review document on conceptualizing and measuring child care practices and resources for care.

Nutrition Foundation of India, New Delhi.

Research Officer (Nutrition), May 1994-May 1995

- Prepared behavior change communications materials related to infant and young child feeding, edited the Bulletin of the Nutrition Foundation of India, and assisted the Director in preparing policy and advocacy documents.

RESEARCH SUPPORT

- Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. *Co-Principal Investigator*. POSHAN: Partnerships and Opportunities for Strengthening and Harmonizing Actions for Nutrition in India. \$3,593,000. (September 2011- September 2015). 2nd CoPI: Suneetha Kadiyala, IFPRI.
- DFID. *Co-Investigator*. Transform Nutrition. \$10,000,000 (May 2011-May 2017). PI: Stuart Gillespie, IFPRI.
- Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN). *Principal Investigator*. Evaluating the public health impact of a market-based approach to improving infant diets using micronutrient powders. \$398,000. (March 2010-November 2011)
- Academy for Educational Development (AED) [Source funding: Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation]. *Co-Principal Investigator*. Monitoring and Evaluation of *Alive and Thrive*. \$8,700,000. (December 2008- December 2013)
- Welthungerhilfe (German Agro Action). *Principal Investigator*. \$30,000. Developing an Indian State Hunger Index. August-October 2008.
- UNICEF-India. *Principal Investigator*. Analysis of Determinants and Trends in Infant and Young Child Nutrition in India. \$100,000. (January 2009-December 2011).
- World Bank. *Co-Principal Investigator*. Development of an Impact Evaluation Plan for the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) IV Project. \$50,000. June 2008-March 2009.
- International Centre for Diarrhoeal Diseases Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B) (Source funding: The World Bank). *Co-Principal Investigator*. (with Edward A Frongillo, University of South Carolina & David Pelletier, Cornell University). The Mainstreaming Nutrition Initiative. \$325,000. January -December 2008.
- International Centre for Diarrhoeal Diseases Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B) (Source funding: The World Bank). *Co-Principal Investigator*. (with Edward A Frongillo, University of South Carolina & David Pelletier, Cornell University). The Mainstreaming Nutrition Initiative. \$300,769. January -December 2007.
- Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation nutrition strategy development). Analysis and synthesis of key issues in fortification and global nutrition. *Co-Principal Investigator*. PI: David L. Pelletier. \$48,000
- International Centre for Diarrhoeal Diseases Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B) (Source funding: The World Bank). *Co-Principal Investigator*. PI: Edward A Frongillo, Cornell University. Developing a framework and tools

for mainstreaming nutrition interventions into maternal and child health service delivery systems. \$230,000. January -December 2006.

- International Food Policy Research Institute. *Co-Principal Investigator*. PI: Jean-Pierre Habicht, Cornell University. Assessing the influence of frontline worker skills characteristics and work context on the effectiveness of behavioral change communication in rural Haiti. A collaborative project funded by USAID's University Partnership Program grant to IFPRI. \$25,992. July 2005-June 2006.
- Micronutrient Initiative. *Co-Principal Investigator*. PI: Marie Ruel, IFPRI. An assessment of the feasibility & effectiveness of distributing micronutrient sprinkles within a Title II food aid and Maternal and Child Health program in rural Haiti. \$40,000. June 2004 to March 2006.
- USAID Global Livestock Collaborative Research Support Program (Planning Grant). *Co-Investigator*. PI: Dan Brown (Cornell University, Dept. of Animal Sciences). Understanding constraints to incorporating animal source foods into the diets of young children in East Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean: From problem identification to problem solving. \$49,951. September 2003 to March 2004.
- FANTA/USAID. *Co-Investigator*. PI: Marie Ruel, IFPRI. "Prevention or Cure? A Comparison of the Effectiveness of Targeting Food Supplements to Malnourished Children Compared to Universal Targeting of Children Under Two in Haiti". \$1,500,000. December 2001 to June 2006.
- International Food Policy Research Institute. *Co-Investigator*. PI: Jean-Pierre Habicht, Cornell University. Comparative analysis of the importance of maternal caregiving practices for child nutrition using data from the Demographic Health Surveys (DHS). A collaborative project funded by USAID's University Partnership Program grant to IFPRI. \$30,000. July 1999 - October 2000,.

AWARDS & HONORS

- Dannon Nutrition Leadership Institute (June 2-7, 2007)
- American Society for Nutrition Travel Award for the International Congress of Nutrition, Durban, 2005
- 7th Abraham Horwitz Lecturer, Sub-Committee on Nutrition (SCN) Meetings, Chennai, India, 2003.
- International Congress of Nutrition Young Investigator Travel Award, Vienna, 2001
- Margaret Mitchell Fellowship, 1997-98; Esta and Lewis Ress Fellowship, 1997-98, 1998-99; Christian and Anna Berens Fellowship, 1998-99; Cliff and Jane Carpenter Memorial Fellowship, 1998-99;
- Woo Travel Fellowship, 1997, 1999; Mario Einaudi Center Pre-dissertation Travel Award, 1997; Dissertation Research Travel Award, 1999

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATION

- American Society for Nutrition (ASN)
- International Nutrition Council (of the ASN)
- Nutrition Society of India

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- Referee for *Journal of Nutrition, Social Science and Medicine, European Journal of Clinical Nutrition, World Development, Public Health Nutrition, Food and Nutrition Bulletin, American Journal of Public Health, PLoS Medicine, Maternal and Child Nutrition, British Medical Journal*.
- Experimental Biology 2008 - Programming Chair for International Nutrition Council
- Experimental Biology 2007; 2011 – Symposium organizer and chair.

LANGUAGES

Hindi (fluent), Malayalam (fluent), Tamil (working proficiency), Bengali (basic, working proficiency), French (proficient), Haitian Creole (basic, working proficiency), Spanish (basic),

PUBLICATIONS (JOURNAL ARTICLES, BOOK CHAPTERS, OTHER PEER-REVIEWED)

1. Menon, Purnima; Frongillo, Edward A.; Pelletier, David L.; Stoltzfus, Rebecca J.; Ahmed, A.M. Shamsir; Ahmed, Tahmeed. 2011. [Assessment of epidemiologic, operational, and sociopolitical domains for mainstreaming nutrition](#). *Food & Nutrition Bulletin*; Volume 32, No. Supplement 2, pp. 105S-114S(10); June 2011.

2. Pelletier, David L.; Menon, Purnima; Ngo, Tien; Frongillo, Edward A.; Frongillo, Dominic. 2011. [The nutrition policy process: The role of strategic capacity in advancing national nutrition agendas](#). *Food & Nutrition Bulletin*; Volume 32, No. Supplement 2, pp. 59S-69S(11); June 2011
3. Lapping K, Frongillo EA, Studdert LJ, **Menon P**, Coates J, Webb P. 2011. Prospective analysis of the development of the national nutrition agenda in Vietnam from 2006 to 2008. *Health Policy and Planning* 2011; doi: 10.1093/heapol/czr013
4. Pelletier DL, Frongillo EA, Gervais S, Hoey L, **Menon P**, Stoltzfus RJ, Ahmed, AMS, Ahmed T. 2011. Commitment, Convergence and Capacity: Insights from the Mainstreaming Nutrition Initiative. *Health Policy and Planning* 2011; doi: 10.1093/heapol/czr011
5. Sen B, **Menon P**, Ahmed AU, Chowdhury FP. 2010. *Food Utilization and Nutrition Security. Policy paper prepared for the Bangladesh Food Security Investment Forum*. IFPRI: Washington, DC.
6. **Menon P**. *From Research to Programs: Applying Knowledge to Improve Nutrition Outcomes*. In: Vir, S. (ed) *Public Health Nutrition in India. In press*. (book chapter)
7. Donegan, S., Maluccio, JA, Myers, CK, **Menon, P.**, Ruel, MT, Habicht, J-P. 2010. Two Food-Assisted Maternal and Child Health Nutrition Programs Helped Mitigate the Impact of Economic Hardship on Child Stunting in Haiti. *J. Nutr.* 140 (6) 1139-1145.
8. **Menon, P.**, Raabe, K, Bhaskar, A. 2009. Biological, Programmatic and Sociopolitical Dimensions of Child Undernutrition in Three States in India. *IDS Bulletin* 40 (4): 70-79.
9. Loechl CU, **Menon P**, Arimond M, Ruel MT, Pelto G, Habicht JP, Michaud L. 2009. Using programme theory to assess the feasibility of delivering micronutrient sprinkles through a food-assisted maternal and child health and nutrition programme in rural Haiti. *Maternal and Child Nutrition*. 5: 33-48.
10. Leroy, JL & **Menon, P**. 2008. From efficacy to public health impact: A call for research on program delivery and utilization in nutrition. *Journal of Nutrition* 138(3):628-9.
11. **Menon P**, Mbuya M, Habicht, J-P, Pelto, G, Loechl, CU, Ruel, MT. 2008. Assessing supervisory and motivational factors in the context of a program evaluation in rural Haiti. *Journal of Nutrition* 138: 634-637.
12. Ruel, MT, **Menon, P.**, Habicht, J.-P., Loechl, C.U., Bergeron, G., Pelto, G., Arimond, M., Maluccio, J. Michaud L, Hankebo, B. 2008. Age-based preventive targeting of food assistance and behavior change communication is more effective in reducing childhood undernutrition than targeting undernourished children: Evidence from a cluster randomized trial in Haiti. *Lancet* 371: 588-95.
13. **Menon, P.**, Ruel, MT, Habicht, J.-P., Loechl, C.U., Arimond, M. Pelto, G., Michaud L. 2007 Micronutrient Sprinkles reduce anemia among 9-24 mo old children when delivered through an integrated health and nutrition program in rural Haiti. *Journal of Nutrition* 137; 4. 1023-1030.
14. Pachón, H, Simondon, KB, Fall, ST, **Menon, P.**, Ruel, MT, Hotz, C, Creed-Kanashiro, H, Arce, B, Liria Domínguez, MR, Frongillo, EA, Brown, DL. 2007. Constraints to delivering animal source foods to infants and young children in 5 countries. *Food and Nutrition Bulletin* 28(2):215-229, 2007
15. **Menon, P.**, Arimond, M., Ruel, MT, Habicht, J.-P., Pelto, G, Loechl, C.U. 2005. Using operations research to strengthen an impact evaluation comparing two integrated nutrition programs in Haiti. In: Vorster HH, Blaauw R, Dhansay MA, Kuzwayo PMN, Moeng TL, Wenzel-Viljoen, E (Eds). *Proceedings of the 18th International Congress of Nutrition, 19 - 23 September 2005, Durban, South Africa: Nutrition Safari for Innovative Solutions*. Annals of Nutrition & Metabolism. Karger Publications.
16. Loechl, C, Ruel, MT, Pelto, G, **Menon, P**. 2005. The Use of Operations Research as a Tool for Monitoring and Managing Food-Assisted Maternal/Child Health and Nutrition (MCHN) Programs: An Example from Haiti. *Food Consumption and Nutrition Division Discussion Paper No. 187*. IFPRI: Washington, D.C.
17. Ruel, MT, **Menon, P**, Loechl, C, Pelto, G. 2004. Fortified donated cereal blends improve the nutrient density of traditional complementary foods in Haiti, but iron and zinc gaps remain for infants. *Food and Nutrition Bulletin* 25 (4): 361-376.
18. **Menon, P**, Loechl, C, Ruel, MT, Pelto, G. 2004. From Research to Program Design: The Use of Formative Research to Develop a Behavior Change Communication Program to Prevent Malnutrition in Haiti. *Food Consumption and Nutrition Division Discussion Paper 170*. IFPRI: Washington, D.C.
19. **Menon, P**. 2003. Bringing nutrition into the political and technical mainstream: the role of effective communication. The 7th Abraham Horwitz Lecture. *SCN News, 2003, No. 26*.

20. Ruel, MT, **Menon, P.** 2002. Child Feeding Practices Are Associated with Child Nutritional Status in Latin America: Innovative Uses of the Demographic and Health Surveys. *Journal of Nutrition* 2002 **132**: 1180-1187.
21. Ruel, MT, **Menon, P.** 2002. *Creating a Child Feeding Index Using the Demographic and Health Surveys: An example from Latin America.* Food Consumption and Nutrition Division Discussion Paper **130**. IFPRI: Washington, D.C.
22. **Menon, P,** Akhtar, N, Habicht, J-P. 2002. An ethnographic study of the influences on maternal decision-making about infant feeding practices in rural Bangladesh. *Kolsteren, P, et al. (eds). Proceedings of the Colloquium on Promotion of Growth and Development of Children Under-Five.* Institute of Tropical Medicine, Antwerp, Belgium.
23. **Menon, P,** Ruel, MT, Morris, SS. 2000. Socio-economic differentials in child stunting: Results from 11 DHS data sets. *Food and Nutrition Bulletin* **21**(3) 282-289.
24. Engle, PL, **Menon, P,** Haddad, LH. 1999. Care and Nutrition: Concepts and Measurement. *World Development* **27**(8):1309-1337.
25. Ruel, MT, Garrett, JL, Morris, SS, Maxwell, D, Oshaug, A, Engle, P, **Menon, P,** Slack, A, and Haddad, L. 1998. *Urban Challenges to Food and Nutrition Security: A Review of Food Security, Health, and Caregiving in the Cities.* Food Consumption and Nutrition Division Discussion Paper **51**. IFPRI: Washington, D.C.
26. Engle, PL, **Menon, P,** Haddad, LH. 1997. *Care and Nutrition: Concepts and Measurement.* Occasional Paper, International Food Policy Research Institute, Washington, DC.
27. Engle, PL, **Menon, P,** Garrett, J, Slack, A. 1997. Urbanization and care-giving: A framework for analysis and examples from southern and eastern Africa. *Environment and Urbanization* **9**(2): 253-270.
28. Engle, PL, Castle, S, **Menon, P.** 1996. Child Development: Vulnerability and resilience. *Social Science & Medicine*, **43** (5): 621-35.

OTHER (NON-PEER REVIEWED)

1. Kim SS, Habicht J-P, **Menon, P,** Stoltzfus RJ. 2011. How Do Programs Work to Improve Child Nutrition? IFPRI Discussion Paper, forthcoming.
2. Nguyen P, **Menon P,** Hajeerhoy N. Nutrition Profile for 14 Provinces in Vietnam 2010. Alive and Thrive, Viet Nam. (produced and published by A&T Viet Nam).
3. von Grebmer K, Ruel MT, **Menon P,** Nestorova B, Olofinbiyi T, Fritschel H, Yohannes Y, with von Oppeln C, Towey O, Golden K, Thompson J. 2010. *Global Hunger Index 2010. The Challenge of Hunger: Focus on the Crisis of Child Undernutrition.* IFPRI: Washington, DC.
4. **Menon, P.,** Deolalikar, A, Bhaskar, A. 2009. *The India State Hunger Index: Comparisons of Hunger across 17 States in India.* International Food Policy Research Institute, Washington, DC.

MEDIA WRITING

Menon P. 2010. A food program that's not about food. Foreign Policy, August 26, 2010. (media op-ed).

Kadiyala, S., **Menon P.,** Gillespie, S. 2011. India's Nutrition Neglect: Turning the Tide. Financial Express. (media op-ed).

CONFERENCES & PRESENTATIONS

(Over 45 conference presentations and posters; details available on request)

- *American Society for Nutrition annual meeting at Experimental Biology:* 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2011.
- *International Union of Nutritional Sciences (IUNS) conference, International Congress of Nutrition:* 1997, 2001, 2005, 2009.
- *Micronutrient Forum:* 2009
- *Global Health Council:* 2006