

RESEARCH CLINIC

General information

Supervisor:	Dr. Laura van der Velde, L.A.van_der_Velde@lumc.nl Prof. Dr. Jessica Kiefte-de Jong j.c.kiefte@lumc.nl
Title of clinic:	Facilitating food security in The Hague: Balancing sustainability and poverty
Number of students:	2
Major (if applicable and approved by the Major Convener):	GPH/GED/EES
(Pre)requisites (if applicable):	At least one methods course (200 or 300 level)

Research context

Household food poverty is currently a serious concern for health and wellbeing. In The Hague, it has been estimated that approximately 25% of the families living in disadvantaged neighborhoods. At the same time we face the challenge of massive food waste that poses a major burden on the environment. A recent initiative in The Hague to bridge both the challenge of food poverty and food waste is the initiative of the foundation of “Vers and Vrij”.

To reduce food waste and support inhabitants living in poverty, the foundation Vers & Vrij in The Hague has placed fridges in community (health) centers with meals for those in need. The meals are offered by local catering organizations and restaurants, schools and other institutions in The Hague. In total, more than 20 restaurants, 12 neighborhood centers, churches, activity centers and catering organizations are participating in this refrigerator project. To make the project possible, volunteers collect leftover meals from catering establishments and schools five days a week. For this, volunteers use electric delivery vans that have been made available specifically for “Vers & Vrij”. The meals are then delivered to eleven locations including community and health centers in the poorest neighborhoods in The Hague. There are refrigerators containing meals and plates and cutlery. Anyone in need take a meal from one of the fridge. In this way, the foundation hopes to combat food waste and reduce food insecurity in the city of The Hague.

The primary aim of this research clinic is to evaluate the “Vers & Vrij” intervention in The Hague.

Specific tasks of the students will include:

- Conduct observations on the uptake of the residual meals in community centers.
- Conduct qualitative interviews regarding the acceptance and appreciation of the initiative
- Conduct qualitative and quantitative analysis
- Writing a scientific report and present the result for important stakeholders.