

Research Assistant (m/f/d)

Food Environments and Dietary Quality in Africa

Center for Development Research (ZEF), University of Bonn

The position

We are looking for a research assistant to support the research of **Dr. Hannah Ameye** and **Dr. Vivien Hülsen** at ZEF. The position is embedded in the Department of Economic and Technological Change (ZEF ECON), headed by **Prof. Dr. Matin Qaim**.

The work focuses on food environments and dietary quality in sub-Saharan Africa. You will contribute to ongoing research that uses household and individual level survey data, and in some projects geospatial data, to understand how people access food and what they eat.

- ☐ **Scope:** minimum one day per week, with flexibility to agree on a higher workload
- ☐ **Duration:** one year (can be discussed), starting around November/December 2026
- ☐ **Remuneration:** according to the standard rates of the University of Bonn

Your tasks

- ☐ Cleaning, harmonising and documenting quantitative survey datasets
- ☐ Producing descriptive statistics, summary tables and figures
- ☐ Preparing and merging secondary data, including geospatial layers such as market locations, road networks, land cover and climate data
- ☐ Writing reproducible and well documented code
- ☐ Supporting literature searches and reference management
- ☐ Contributing to the preparation of research outputs

Your profile

Required

- ☐ Enrolment in or completion of a degree in economics, agricultural economics, nutrition, geography, data science, statistics or a related field
- ☐ Strong practical skills in **R** and **Stata**, including data management with large and messy survey datasets
- ☐ Careful, accurate and structured way of working, and the ability to document your own work so that others can follow it
- ☐ Very good command of English
- ☐ Ability to work independently and to communicate openly about progress and problems

An asset

- ☐ Experience with geospatial data and GIS tools (e.g., R, QGIS or Google Earth Engine)
- ☐ Familiarity with standard household survey data such as the LSMS-ISA, DHS or national household surveys
- ☐ Experience with version control (Git) or with reproducible workflows

- Interest in or prior exposure to food systems, nutrition or development research

What we offer

- Involvement in international, policy relevant research on food systems and nutrition
- Close supervision by two researchers working directly on these topics, with the possibility to co-author or to develop your own thesis topic in this area
- Integration into the ZEF ECON group and the interdisciplinary ZEF community, including access to seminars, colloquia and the ZEF research network
- A flexible working arrangement that can be combined with studies or other commitments

How to apply

Please send the following in a single PDF to hameye@uni-bonn.de, with the subject line "Research Assistant Food Environments [last name]":

1. A short letter of motivation (max. one page) explaining your interest and your experience with data work
2. A CV
3. Transcripts of your studies
4. Optionally, a link to a code portfolio or a short code sample that shows how you structure a data cleaning workflow

Deadline for applications: 26.09.2026

The University of Bonn is committed to diversity and equal opportunity. Applications from qualified people of all backgrounds are welcome.

For informal enquiries about the position, please contact Dr. Hannah Ameye hameye@uni-bonn.de