



REFANI Somalia STUDY:

A case control study assessing the role of cash transfer programmes in reducing the risk of acute malnutrition in Somalia

Overview on Research Implementation

September 2015



OVERVIEW

In collaboration between the Institute for Global Health at University College London (UCL) and Concern Worldwide, the REFANI Somalia study will study the implementation of an unconditional emergency cash transfer programme (CTP) in the Afgoye Corridor region, close to Mogadishu.

STUDY DESIGN & RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The study uses a matched case control design, which assesses the impact of unconditional cash transfers (UCT) on the risk of developing severe acute malnutrition (SAM) in children aged 6-59 months, who are living in internally displaced person (IDP) camps.

Cases are children with SAM and attend Concern's Outpatient Therapeutic Programme (OTP) centres or health centres, and SAM cases found by case-finding in the community. Controls are Children without SAM who are aged 6-59 months and of similar age and residing in the same community/neighbourhood, recruited concurrently to the cases.

The primary research question for the Somalia study is: Does distribution of unconditional cash reduce the risk of developing severe acute malnutrition among IDP children aged 6-59 months and living in a peri-urban area of Mogadishu, Somalia? Secondary research questions relate to the role that other exposures may play in increasing the risk of developing SAM, the delivery process of the CTP as it relates to programme effectiveness, and qualitative research to ascertain the local perceptions of malnutrition, its risk factors and the mechanisms by which CTPs may alter these risk factors.

OUTCOMES & ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

The primary research outcome is an odds ratio of exposure, which describes the odds of IDP children, aged 6-59 months, developing SAM after exposure to the UCT.

The REFANI study has been approved by the Ministry of Health of the Federal Government in Mogadishu and is currently undergoing ethical review by the UCL Research Ethics Committee.

CURRENT STATUS & FUTURE PLANS

The first UCTs will be distributed in August 2015, going until January 2016. Data collection will commence in November 2015, ending in February 2016. For more information, please visit the REFANI website www.actionagainsthunger.org/REFANI or contact the REFANI@actionagainsthunger.org.