

New research project in Somalia to test the effectiveness of cash & vouchers on preventing acute malnutrition

- **Joint research project by World Vision and Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health wins Elrha Research for Health in Humanitarian Crises (R2HC) Programme Grant**
- **The joint research project will compare the effectiveness of food vouchers to the effectiveness of mixed transfers in preventing acute malnutrition among vulnerable populations in Somalia**

5th December 2017 - World Vision and Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health are thrilled to announce a new joint research project, "Cash and vouchers for nutrition: A study of nutritional outcomes for vulnerable groups in the Somalia food crisis", funded by Elrha's Research for Health in Humanitarian Crises (R2HC) programme. The research intends to compare the effectiveness of food vouchers to the effectiveness of mixed transfers, consisting of food vouchers and unconditional cash transfers, to prevent acute malnutrition among vulnerable populations, including pregnant and lactating women and children under five years of age.

'This research will provide much needed evidence about the choice of assistance modalities' says Charles Owubah, WV Partnership Leader for Evidence and Learning, 'which will inform food and nutrition programming in Somalia and future crises. The aim of the project is actionable recommendations to inform future food and nutrition programming in Somalia and other food crises.'

The research will focus on prevention of acute malnutrition among vulnerable populations affected by the Somalia food crisis. The findings will be directly utilised to improve health and nutrition status in the current famine response, through the incorporation of implications, learning and identified successful innovations into refinement of future programs implemented by World Vision and partners.

'This a very important study because pregnant and lactating women are a vulnerable group that are commonly targeted for food assistance in humanitarian settings yet there is no evidence to date on the individual level impacts of cash and voucher transfers or the best transfer modalities provided given their unique needs' says Dr. Shannon Doocy, Associate Professor at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

ENDS

Notes to editors:

- For more information please contact Tanya Penny – Director Global Humanitarian Communications from World Vision on +971 50 550 5803 or tanya_penny@wvi.org.
- Follow [@wv_humanitarian](https://twitter.com/wv_humanitarian) on Twitter for more news and updates.
- World Vision is a Christian relief, development and advocacy organisation dedicated to working with children, families and communities to overcome poverty and injustice. For more information, visit <http://wvi.org/disaster-management/media-centre>
- The Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health (JHSPH) (<https://www.jhsph.edu/>) is a leading global health institution with a century's history of excellence in research, training, and public health practice. JHSPH has ongoing research and projects in 130 countries and an annual budget of US\$500 million. JHSPH has a longstanding reputation as an ethical and successful competitor in evaluation, technical assistance and research projects. Through interdisciplinary research and technical support, JHSPH faculty connect with practitioners to apply science and practice skills to the processes of assessing problems, developing interventions, and assuring effective implementation and evaluation.
- The Center for Humanitarian Health (CHH) (www.hopkinshumanitarianhealth.org) partners globally with non-governmental organizations, international groups, and government agencies on field-based research, evaluations and humanitarian emergencies and transitional settings. CHH faculty specialize in training and capacity building; field survey and research design and implementation; demographic and epidemiological research; and program monitoring and evaluation. CHH faculty have experience in a wide range of evaluation and research methods, including qualitative and quantitative methods, (quasi-) experimental impact evaluation design and development of rigorous research and evaluation methodologies that are feasible in acute and protracted emergencies. CHH faculty have been engaged in the ebola response, including provision of technical support and evaluation IFRC of community-based response programs.
- The R2HC programme is funded equally by the Wellcome Trust and DFID. Visit www.elrha.org/r2hc for more information.
- An advisory board has been formed by representatives from World Food Programme (WFP) and UNICEF.