

# Research on Food Assistance for Nutritional Impact (REFANI)

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Bridget Fenn, the REFANI Pakistan Principal Investigator, talks about the “hot off the press” result from the study at the Research for Nutrition Conference.

## What is REFANI?

The [Consortium for Research on Food Assistance for Nutritional Impact \(REFANI\)](#) is an international, three year, £3.2 million research project, generously funded by the Department for International Development (DFID) of the United Kingdom. The REFANI project has examined the impact of food assistance (cash, vouchers and/or direct food transfers) on nutrition outcomes in crisis affected contexts in Niger, Pakistan and Somalia. The project ends on April 1<sup>st</sup> 2017.

## Consortium partners

The project consortium partners are Action Against Hunger International (ACF), Concern Worldwide, the ENN and the University College of London (UCL).

For more information contact [REFANI@actionagainsthunger.org](mailto:REFANI@actionagainsthunger.org)

## REFANI research activities

ENN was responsible for one research study in Pakistan which was a four arm Randomised Controlled Trial (RCT) comparing cash, double cash and fresh food vouchers with a control arm over a six month intervention period and then, at 12 months in terms of impact on wasting. Secondary outcomes of interest were stunting and anaemia. The study has been completed and the main impact findings have been submitted to a peer reviewed journal. Further analysis of the causal pathways determining impact are underway and will be submitted for publication.

See [FEX 54 article on results of the REFANI Pakistan RCT](#) published January 2017.

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Paper published in PLOS Med May 2017, "*Impact evaluation of different cash-based intervention modalities on child and maternal nutritional status in Sindh Province, Pakistan, at 6 mo and at 1 y*" [Link to open access article here.](#)

**[www.ennonline.net/ourwork/research/refani](http://www.ennonline.net/ourwork/research/refani)**

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