



## Abstract/Summary information for the Technical Meeting on Nutrition (TMN)

Subject Title	MAM'Out project: Evaluation of multiannual and seasonal cash transfer to prevent acute malnutrition
Level of Relevance <i>Global /Regional/National</i>	Global
Subject focus area <i>Research/programming/combination</i>	Research
Sphere of interest <i>Humanitarian/Development/Cross-cutting</i>	Development
Main nutritional focus <i>Wasting/Stunting/Micronutrient malnutrition/overweight and obesity</i>	Wasting
Identify which of the ten thematic areas it relates to	3- Cash transfer programming (conditional and unconditional), and combinations of cash with other sectoral interventions
<p>Abstract/Summary information (<i>no more than 300 words</i>)  <i>Suggest to include information such as;</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ What is the context?</li> <li>▪ A brief description of the research/programme</li> <li>▪ Main aims</li> <li>▪ What has been learned that is new?</li> <li>▪ Does it inform; evidence/design decisions/policy/other?</li> <li>▪ How robust are the findings?</li> </ul> <p>17.3% of children under 5 years old were acutely malnourished in April 2012 (SMART, 2012) in the Tapoa Province (East region of Burkina Faso, Africa). Wasting is a crucial public health issue in the country. The MAM'Out (Moderate Acute Malnutrition Out) research project aims to assess a context-adapted preventive approach, likely to influence several underlying causes of under-nutrition and not based primarily on food supplementation. The objective is to provide an evidence base for this alternative approach, so that the results can be used for policy-making. The study evaluates the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of a seasonal and multi-annual cash transfer program in the framework of a safety net to prevent acute malnutrition in children below 36 months in the Tapoa province. The program</p>	

targets economically vulnerable households with children less than 1 year old at the time of inclusion. Cash is distributed to mothers via mobile phones. The transfers are unconditional, leading to beneficiaries' self-determination on its use. This study is designed as a two-arm cluster randomized intervention trial. The units of randomization are rural villages of the Tapoa province. One arm receives cash during five months each year for two years (2013 and 2014) and one is a comparison group. The main outcomes are the cumulative incidence of acute malnutrition (or wasting) and the cost-effectiveness. Anthropometric measures (height, weight and MUAC) are followed, as well as indicators of dietary diversity, food security, health center utilization, families' expenses and morbidities. Based on a theory of change model, built a priori, the pathways by which cash can have an effect on the prevention of under-nutrition are assessed. Monthly collection of qualitative data during the cash transfer period through focus group discussions and individual interviews also provides essential in-depth information on these pathways and allows understanding how cash transfers are perceived by women and what the role is of women in the use of the cash received.

The project began in May 2013 in the field.