



In the latest years the treatment of acute malnutrition has moved from an inpatient model in a few countries to a global public health outpatient service that treats millions of patients every year. This was possible due to the new Community Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) programs, however in order to scale up this model even wider new strategies are needed.

The C project is a Joint Initiative by Action Against Hunger and the Innocent foundation whose objective is to increase the proportion of severe malnourished children treated globally, in CMAM or similar programs, by transforming the current service delivery model and improving access to treatment services. The project has piloted alternative models that empower community health workers to play a more direct role in the provision of SAM treatment in order to build an evidence-base about the effectiveness of such an approach and its comparative advantage over the existing model of service delivery.

Previous pilot research had shown that modifications to the service delivery model can reach over 90% of the affected cases. These examples, however, have shown the efficacy of such models but not its effectiveness. We piloted treatment delivered directly by Community Health Workers in ACF run programs in Mali and Pakistan during the last year. The objective is to generate enough evidence to advocate for further implementation, adoption and scale up of this model at country and global level.

A cohort study has been implemented in Mali during the last year, data was collected on the efficiency of this approach, impact and quality of care of the integration of SAM treatment into the existing Malian iCCM model for treatment of malaria, pneumonia and diarrhoea. We will be presenting solid evidence based on research experiences that this type of approaches into community programs increase the impact of nutrition intervention. This has been important to shape the national protocol in Mali and other countries are seeking to implement similar approaches in Nigeria, Kenya, Niger and Sierra Leone.