

**Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health
Department of Global Health and Population
Research Internship Opportunity**

Project Title:

Healthy Kitchens, Healthy Children: A school-based cluster randomized controlled trial

Country/Countries in which the work would take place:

Lebanon, American University of Beirut, Faculty of Health Sciences, Center for Research on Population and Health

Brief description of project/research:

This project aims to improve food security and dietary diversity in two Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon, through a two-pronged intervention: 1. the establishment of community kitchens (CKs) as small business enterprises where women receive training and acquire expertise in the preparation of healthy meals, food safety and hygiene, and entrepreneurship skills to encourage the development of small business enterprises; 2. the development of a school feeding program for children aged 5 to 12 years catered by the trained women from the CKs and sold at a subsidized price to school children. Intervention schools benefit from an institutionalized meals program providing a balanced and healthy diet where none currently exist.

The potential impact of the project is to improve livelihoods and food security of women living in marginalized communities by providing them with training and an income generating opportunity, and to improve diet diversity and nutritional quality of food consumed at school by children. Baseline data have been collected from women participating in kitchens, and from children attending four Palestinian schools. The intervention has been in place in two schools and endline data will be collected from women and children in both intervention and control schools after one year of implementation.

Brief description of work for potential intern(s):

- Qualitative or quantitative data analysis from the project
- Semi-structured interviews with women participating in the kitchen to evaluate process and impact of the intervention

Minimum expected duration of internship(s):

2 months

List any available funds: (travel costs, student stipend, housing, etc.)?

The Center for Research on Population and Health could help identify housing.

Number of internships available: 1

Primary contact:

Prof. Hala Ghattas hg15@aub.edu.lb

Harvard Contact/Affiliation (if applicable):