

The Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) is an international organization that was launched at the UN in 2002 to tackle the human suffering caused by malnutrition. GAIN's purpose is to advance nutrition outcomes by improving the consumption of nutritious and safe food for all people, especially those most vulnerable to malnutrition. In particular, we aim to improve the consumption of safe and nutritious foods for – at a minimum – 1 billion people over the next five years and target major improvements to food systems, resulting in more diverse and healthier diets for vulnerable people in countries where we work.

Purpose and Scope

These principles of engagement articulate GAIN's values and guide whom GAIN will work with whether as a recipient of funding, partner, donor or collaborator in any other ways. The principles underpin GAIN's commitment to global public values, i.e., acting with respect for the individual, following good business practices, and doing no harm through our programs.

OVERARCHING PRINCIPLE:

GAIN *engages* with others where the interaction has the potential to support GAIN's purpose of improving the consumption of nutritious and safe foods for all people, especially those most vulnerable to malnutrition.

GAIN *works* with partners to achieve its goals where shared values exist.

GAIN's definitions of nutritious and safe foods:

A **nutritious food** is a food that, in the context where it is consumed and by the individual that consumes it, provides beneficial nutrients and minimizes potentially harmful elements.

A **safe food** is a food that does not increase the probability of poor health outcomes when part of a broader diet which is recommended in the context where it is consumed.

See the full definition on the [GAIN website](#)

How we engage:

GAIN **works** with a range of partners who help to design, fund, implement, connect, evaluate and communicate projects to accomplish mutually agreed goals and achieve impact.

GAIN **talks** with any organization which has a real or potential impact (negative or positive) on malnutrition. We are open to, and defend the principle that we should, discuss and debate with organizations which we do not work with, or with which we may disagree.

GAIN will not knowingly work with (collaborate with or accept funding from) organizations and their subsidiaries that

1. breach our policies for [safeguarding of vulnerable persons](#)
2. produce armaments, tobacco or pornography
3. extract natural resources in harmful ways or use child labor
4. have violated the International Code of Marketing of Breast Milk Substitutes in the last 5 years

ABOUT GAIN. Driven by a vision of a world without malnutrition, GAIN was created in 2002 at a Special Session of the U.N. General Assembly on Children. GAIN's purpose is to advance nutrition outcomes by improving the consumption of nutritious and safe food for all people, especially those most vulnerable to malnutrition.

PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

Accountability

Effective outcomes

- The purpose of the collaboration should be clearly articulated in an achievable, relevant goal;
- The goal must be to advance nutrition status, usually through the improved consumption of nutritious and safe food;
- The pathway to achieve that goal should be clear and include measurable steps to its accomplishment;
- GAIN will monitor all its projects and seek to evaluate them as per its guidelines on monitoring, research and evaluation.

Transparency

- GAIN will publicly disclose with whom it works and the process by which it determines with whom to work;
- As a publicly funded organization, GAIN has a fundamental obligation to ensure dissemination of the results of all its activities and evaluations in line with its [Global Access Policies](#).

Mutual Respect

Recognition of needs

- GAIN recognizes its partners', collaborators', and donors' independence and diverse needs;
- Anyone GAIN engages with must recognize GAIN's independence, non-exclusivity, and regular assessment of risks and benefits;
- GAIN and the organizations it works with agree to find common ground among the diverse legal frameworks in which they operate.

Mutual Agreement

Clear roles, responsibilities and expectations

- Common goals can be accomplished only if all partners we work with have mutually agreed expectations and have clearly defined roles and responsibilities, articulated in a written agreement.

Risk Management

Identification and appropriate management of risk and potential conflict of interest

- GAIN implements a thorough due diligence process to identify and manage all potential financial, reputational, and other risks of engagement with others and to review these risks on a regular basis.

Quality and Ethics

Ensuring high standards

- GAIN expects all the organizations with whom it works to hold to international legal and ethical standards for programming, business, research, manufacturing, and marketing.
- GAIN and those it works with in conducting research will act in line with the guidelines of the [Public Responsibility in Medicine and Research \(PRIM&R\)](#).

