

IMPACT OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDIVIDUAL DONORS

Sustainability, Data, & Innovation - Driving Sustainable
Innovation with Data & Technology

2026 Investment Cases



MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) stands at the forefront of the global fight against malnutrition, operating as an independent non-profit foundation since 2002. Our mission is both ambitious and essential: to transform food systems so they deliver better nutrition for all people, especially those most vulnerable to malnutrition. GAIN works through market-based approaches, engaging businesses, governments, and civil society to create sustainable solutions that reach millions. We've pioneered innovative programmes ranging from food fortification that reaches over a billion people annually to agricultural initiatives that connect smallholder farmers to nutritious food markets, all united by a commitment to evidence-based interventions that create lasting change.

Supporting GAIN's work on food systems and nutrition offers an unparalleled opportunity to create lasting impact. Every dollar invested in nutrition yields exceptional returns: healthier children who can learn better, workers who can produce more, and communities that can thrive economically. At GAIN, we've developed evidence-based interventions that systematically address malnutrition while creating sustainable market systems that will continue delivering nutritious foods long after our direct involvement ends.

This document presents nine opportunities for impact designed to appeal to individual donors. Most expand existing GAIN programmes which have already demonstrated the ability to scale and transform, for the better, people's lives in low- and middle-income countries. A few represent innovative ideas which we believe have great transformative potential but are yet to be tested at scale. We hope you will be excited to join our large group of engaged donors and we look forward to working with you.

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Nutrition is the 'super-investment' that keeps on giving for people, society, and the planet.

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Lawrence Haddad,
Executive Director, GAIN



OPPORTUNITY #1: TACKLING THE CHALLENGE OF FOOD LOSS & WASTE



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The Gap

Right now, as over 700 million people go to bed hungry, we are throwing away astonishing quantities of food that could be used to feed them. Pre-consumer losses are estimated at over 20% of all food in South Asia, and the most highly nutritious foods—fruits and vegetables, for example—are among the most severely affected. Every day this continues we are making expensive food even more unaffordable for the poorest, pumping carbon into the atmosphere for nothing, and squandering precious water and land while people starve.

How GAIN works to solve this problem

GAIN is racing to tackle this challenge in every one of its projects. With its deep knowledge of food value chains in the twelve countries where it operates, our teams are uniquely placed to be able to identify and target ‘hot spots’ of food loss and waste.

Our work in Pakistan, where dairy processing creates huge amounts of by-products that are often simply discarded, shows how things can be changed. Cheese production requires the separation of the liquid element after curdling (whey), which is currently often discarded in wastewater or onto agricultural land. This disposal disrupts soil acidity, causes nutrient overload, and can deplete the oxygen levels of waterways. It also results in the wastage of all the nutrients in whey. In Pakistan, 68 cheesemakers surveyed by GAIN produce nearly 442mt of whey each year and discard >250mt. GAIN is now helping processors create new products from whey.



Why this matters

Reducing food loss is one of the most cost-effective ways to improve food security, reduce malnutrition, and strengthen local economies. It allows small-scale farmers to capture more value from their produce, supports local markets, and reduces pressure on natural resources.

Impact

In Pakistan, GAIN has been working with dairy processing companies to extract value from their wasted whey: working alongside an expert commercial partner (Arla Food Ingredients), the project has developed highly nutritious and delicious whey-based drinks that can be priced very accessibly for lower-income consumers. GAIN has prototyped and acceptability-tested products with two processors already.



Whey is a valuable resource with broad applications... By utilising whey effectively, industries and individuals alike can minimise waste while maximising its many benefits.

Mustajab AHMAD, Lahore, Pakistan.

\$1 million will transform 5,000 MT of waste into 50 million nutritious servings

For \$1m (cheese producing countries such as Pakistan, Bangladesh, or Kenya), GAIN will transform a further 5000 MT of potentially harmful waste into 50m servings of a low-cost, highly nutritious drink, marketed to populations vulnerable to malnutrition.



Beneficiaries
Planet



Region
South Asia



Area
**Peri-urban/
urban**

OPPORTUNITY #2 DIGITAL SOLUTIONS FOR IMPROVING FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION



OPPORTUNITY #2: DIGITAL SOLUTIONS FOR IMPROVING FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

The Gap

Even in low- and middle-income countries, governments can do a huge amount to protect their most vulnerable citizens against the worst impacts of food insecurity and malnutrition. Many legislate for the addition of key nutrients to staple foods (fortification) and monitor to ensure that food processing companies abide by these rules. Others provide food or cash directly to their poorest citizens, while others still share information, such as on prices, that can help farmers and traders improve their livelihoods. But poor information management in many countries makes it difficult to identify and isolate problems when they arise, starves decision-makers of real-time data, and holds back business growth.

How GAIN works to solve this problem

GAIN works directly with governments to bring their food programmes into the digital age. With trusted advisers working to support multiple ministries plus partnerships with some of the best tech companies, GAIN helps governments answer their critical questions: are school feeding programs actually reaching the hungriest children? Is fortified salt making it to remote villages? Are nutrition programmes working as intended?

At the forefront of this work is the Food Systems Dashboard (FSD)—a breakthrough platform combining nearly 300 indicators from over 40 datasets providing nearly 200,000 users with comprehensive, visual data and expert analysis that can help turn data into action and insights into impact. The Dashboard is co-led by the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), the Columbia Climate School, Cornell University's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), with contributors from numerous other institutions. It enables governments and partners to better understand their food systems and the complex relationships between nutrition, livelihoods, and the environment, while quickly identifying strengths and gaps to guide better evidence-based decisions for healthier diets and sustainable outcomes. GAIN's team goes beyond technology, designing practical, simple data systems that busy officials can use, choose affordable devices that work in challenging conditions, and most importantly, turn complex data into clear insights that help improve programs on the ground.

Impact

For the last three years, GAIN and its technology partners have been working on a digital solution for the fortification (with vitamin A) of cooking oil, where official mandates have failed to lead to universal implementation in large part because of the challenges of monitoring. Prototypes have been developed and are being piloted in three countries (Nigeria, Bangladesh, and India), tailored to the needs of millers who are generally interested in other product characteristics (colour, for example) more than in fortificant levels. The systems can share critical data on fortification compliance without exposing commercially sensitive information that companies do not want in the public domain.

GAIN has also developed an AI-powered chatbot to guide policymakers wishing to explore the data available in the **Food Systems Dashboard**, a collation of data describing different aspects of food systems at national and sub-national levels.

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Evidence-based policy making is crucial. So as a monitoring tool, this dashboard will help me for getting improved results for the implementation of the SDGs.

**Mohd. Monirul Islam, Additional Secretary, SDG Affairs,
Prime Minister's Office, Government of the People's
Republic of Bangladesh**

Act Now!

GAIN is actively expanding its network of country dashboards to enhance decision-making and accelerate food system transformation globally. Governments have begun to act by inviting GAIN to support policy change and update country frameworks tailored to local needs and priorities. This expansion is driven by close collaboration with governments, civil society, and local stakeholders to ensure dashboards are customized for national contexts and foster full government ownership. GAIN's ongoing efforts demonstrate its commitment to making data accessible and actionable, enabling a more holistic and localized approach to transforming food systems worldwide.

\$500,000 to power data-driven food policy for 200,000 users

For \$500K, GAIN can develop and hand over a comprehensive Food Systems Dashboard to government partners within 2 to 2.5 years, empowering nearly 200,000 users with critical insights to transform food policies. This targeted initiative has already supported over a billion people across key countries, driving data-driven decision-making that accelerates food security, nutrition, and sustainable development.



OPPORTUNITY #3 ESSENTIAL DATA FOR LIMITING THE ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE CAUSED BY THE FOOD SYSTEM



OPPORTUNITY #3: ESSENTIAL DATA FOR LIMITING THE ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE CAUSED BY THE FOOD SYSTEM

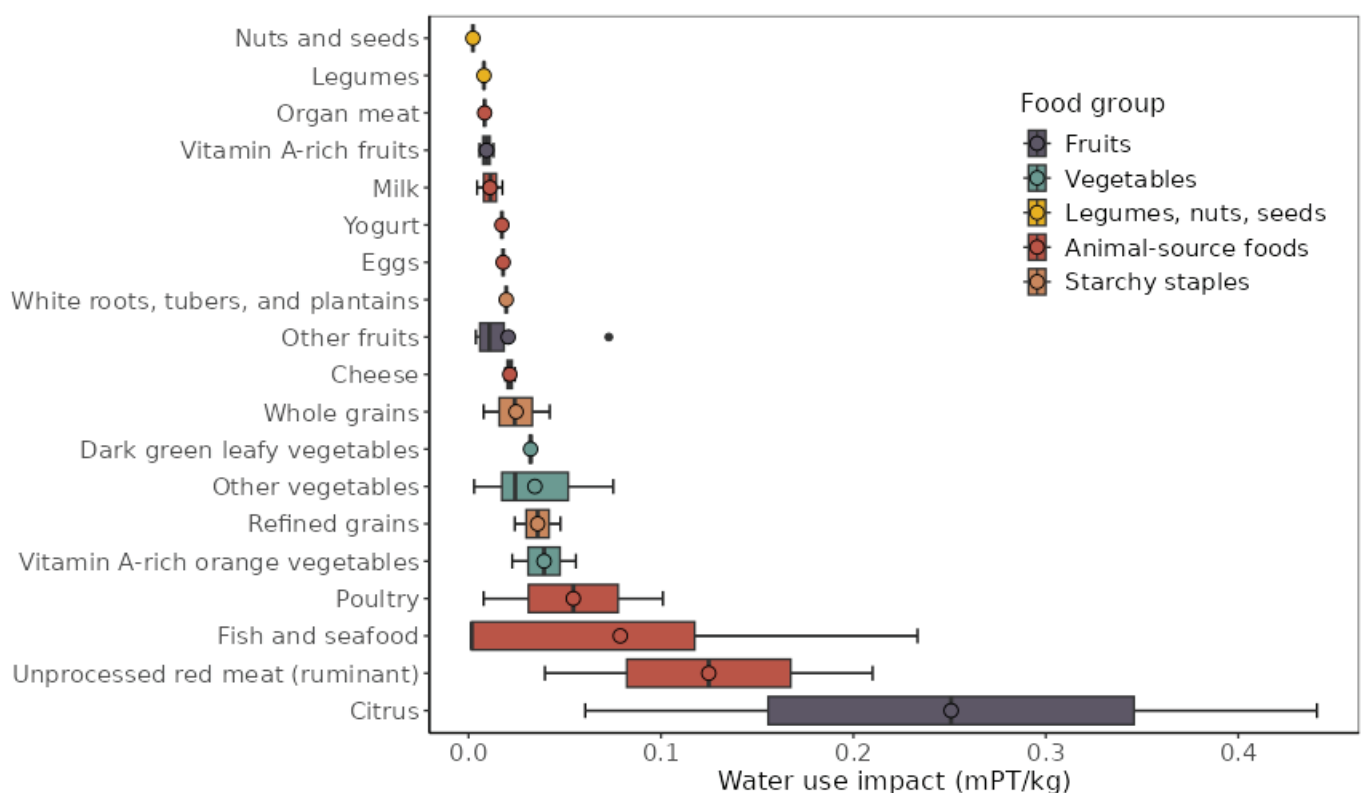
The Gap

Food systems generate one quarter of all greenhouse gas emissions, so to avoid a catastrophic rise in global temperatures we must start eating different plates of food produced in different ways. At the same time, we cannot jeopardise the health and development of nutritionally vulnerable populations. So which foods offer the most nutrition for the least environmental impact? Currently, there is no straightforward answer to this question, as neither nutritionists nor environmentalists have settled on a single metric by which the overall impact of individual food items can be assessed.

How GAIN works to solve this problem

GAIN's research team have made a number of breakthroughs in developing the data that can more effectively guide food systems transformation for humans and the planet. First, they've solved a major problem: how do you actually measure the 'healthiness' of a food? Instead of looking at just one nutrient at a time, they've created a comprehensive score that captures everything—the nutrients that keeps us healthy and the harmful components that increase disease risk. Second, GAIN's **nutritional Life Cycle Assessment (nLCA)** integrates nutritional value with multiple environmental impacts without combining them into a single metric. This approach enables better comparisons of foods based on nutrition and environmental risks separately, addressing concerns about aggregating impacts.

Finally, they're gathering real-world data on how food production, processing and distribution actually affects the environment in different places around the globe. This kind of detailed information has been missing, especially for countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. They've already compiled this data for Kenya, Rwanda, Bangladesh and Indonesia, with more countries to follow.



Impact

GAIN leads the Initiative on Climate Action and Nutrition (I-CAN)—a global partnership launched at COP27 with WHO, FAO, SUN and UNEP—that catalyzes integrated climate and nutrition action. I-CAN supports countries with evidence, policy guidance, and practical tools to align nutrition-sensitive actions with climate goals, advancing sustainable food systems that benefit both health and the planet.

Since 2021, the year of the United Nations Food Systems Summit, our Policy Advisers in each country have supported the development and implementation of national Food Systems Transformation Pathways, which aim to align all parts of government around actions that improve both nutrition and environmental outcomes. In Indonesia and Bangladesh, GAIN's Policy Advisers are already using these data in their advocacy with government counterparts.

Why does this matter

With standardised metrics, governments will be able to design, implement and enforce more effective policies such as food labelling, taxation and subsidy schemes and public procurement, all in service of better nutrition and reduced environmental impact. Food companies will be able to optimise their sourcing and production decisions, and the new transparency will accelerate competition on both nutrition and sustainability.

Act Now!

Join the data revolution that can foster more efficient policymaking on nutrition and the environment! Lack of clarity on metrics is an excuse for inaction.

\$50K Accelerates GAIN's Food Analysis in New Low-/Middle-Income Country

A \$50,000 gift would enable GAIN to analyse the major foods consumed in one additional Low-/Middle-Income Country, for nutritional value and environmental footprint. These data would be compiled, synthesised, and disseminated locally and in globally accessible formats, building on GAIN's unequalled network of policy advisers in our programme countries.

OUR EXCEPTIONAL TEAM



GAIN's projects are delivered on the ground by an exceptional multi-disciplinary team based in 16 different locations. These are a few of them:



Edwin Josiah

has a BSc. in Food Science and Technology and an MBA in Marketing. He has been at GAIN for over seven years, working on both industrial fortification and biofortification.



Miriam Shindler

has an MA in International Development and a Graduate Certificate in Global Nutrition Programming. Leads a team working on Consumer Nutrition from Geneva.



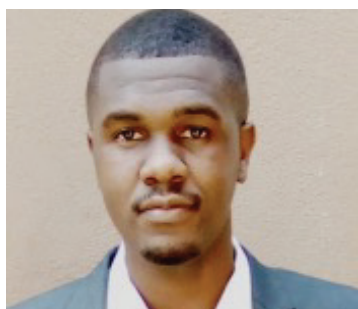
Dennis Mayaka

is based out of our Kenya office, where he is Deputy Country Director and Head of Programmes. He has an MSc in Food Science & Technology and 14 years' experience in agribusiness development.



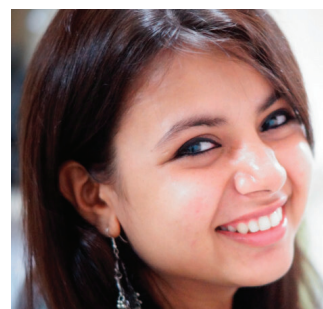
Laura Wekesa

has a BSc and nearly 20 years of professional experience in marketing. She joined GAIN Kenya three years ago and leads the office's work on consumer communication.



Francisco Muchadenhe

oversees the (re-) construction of multiple large food markets. He is a Civil Engineer with post-graduate certification in construction management.



Aishwarya Choubey

leads India's workforce nutrition programme. She specialises in health, nutrition, and sustainability, leading cross-sector partnerships to deliver measurable impact across complex, multi-country environments.

OUR EXCEPTIONAL TEAM



Catia Pedro

specialises in food systems and nutrition. She leads Country Food Systems Dashboards and has extensive experience designing and evaluating programmes across GAIN.



Sutamara Noor

leads GAIN's work on food culture in Indonesia. He has an MSc in Public Health Nutrition and previously worked at the National Ministry of Development Planning.



Tannaza Sadaf

is a portfolio lead in GAIN Pakistan. She has an MSc in Agriculture, and 20 years of experience in a variety of NGOs. She is a qualified project manager.



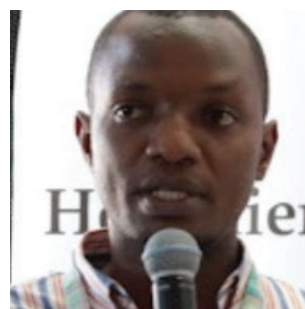
Faith Saalu

integrates environmental sustainability across GAIN's programmes, drawing on seven years of experience in Environmental and Social risk management, climate adaptation, and agricultural value chain development.



Roberta Bove

leads GAIN's work on innovative financing. Roberta has a Masters degree in corporate finance and has worked as an investment analyst and advisor at PwC and Duff & Phelps, and at Palladium Impact Investments.



Aime Kwizera

leads GAIN's work to support the capacity building of nutritious food value chain SMEs. He has an MBA and a BSc in agricultural economics and agribusiness. He has over seven years' experience managing SME programmes.

Healthier Diets.

FOR ALL.



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Learn more about our work:



www.gainhealth.org



Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition



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