



CO-INNOVATION PLATFORM

FOR NUTRITION IMPACT IN SOCIAL PROTECTION



ABOUT THE PLATFORM

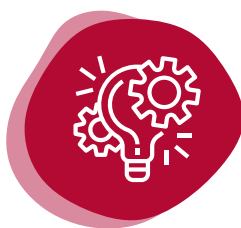
The platform is a community of public officials, development sector professionals, private-sector entrepreneurs, and social innovators who are committed to improving the nutrition impacts of social protection systems.

The aim of the platform is to advance innovative solutions that enhance the effectiveness, sustainability, and returns on investment for nutrition services in social protection programmes in the Global South. This initiative was launched in 2025 by Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) in collaboration with Proportion Global and is led by a consortium of partner organizations. The Platform seeks to bring diverse stakeholders together to critically examine the most pressing barriers to nutrition impacts in social protection systems and to co-create innovative solutions that are context-adapted and scalable. The Platform has the following objectives:



FOSTER COLLABORATION

in social protection
design processes



INCUBATE IDEAS

to improve
design & delivery



DRIVE ACTIONS

that can take innovative
solutions to scale



HOW IT WORKS

The Platform functions much like a social network, creating a community space for governments, development partners, and innovators to share bright ideas, forge strong partnerships, and actively collaborate on co-innovation projects. The Platform consists of two inter-linked components:

KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE FORUM

An open, public online forum for idea sharing, South-South knowledge exchange, and constructive dialogue.

In the Forum, platform users can:

- ✓ Access key resources and evidence on nutrition and social protection
- ✓ Participate in hybrid and virtual events and dialogues
- ✓ Contribute to open innovation challenges hosted on the Platform
- ✓ Build and strengthen partnerships with key stakeholders in nutrition, social protection, and development sectors

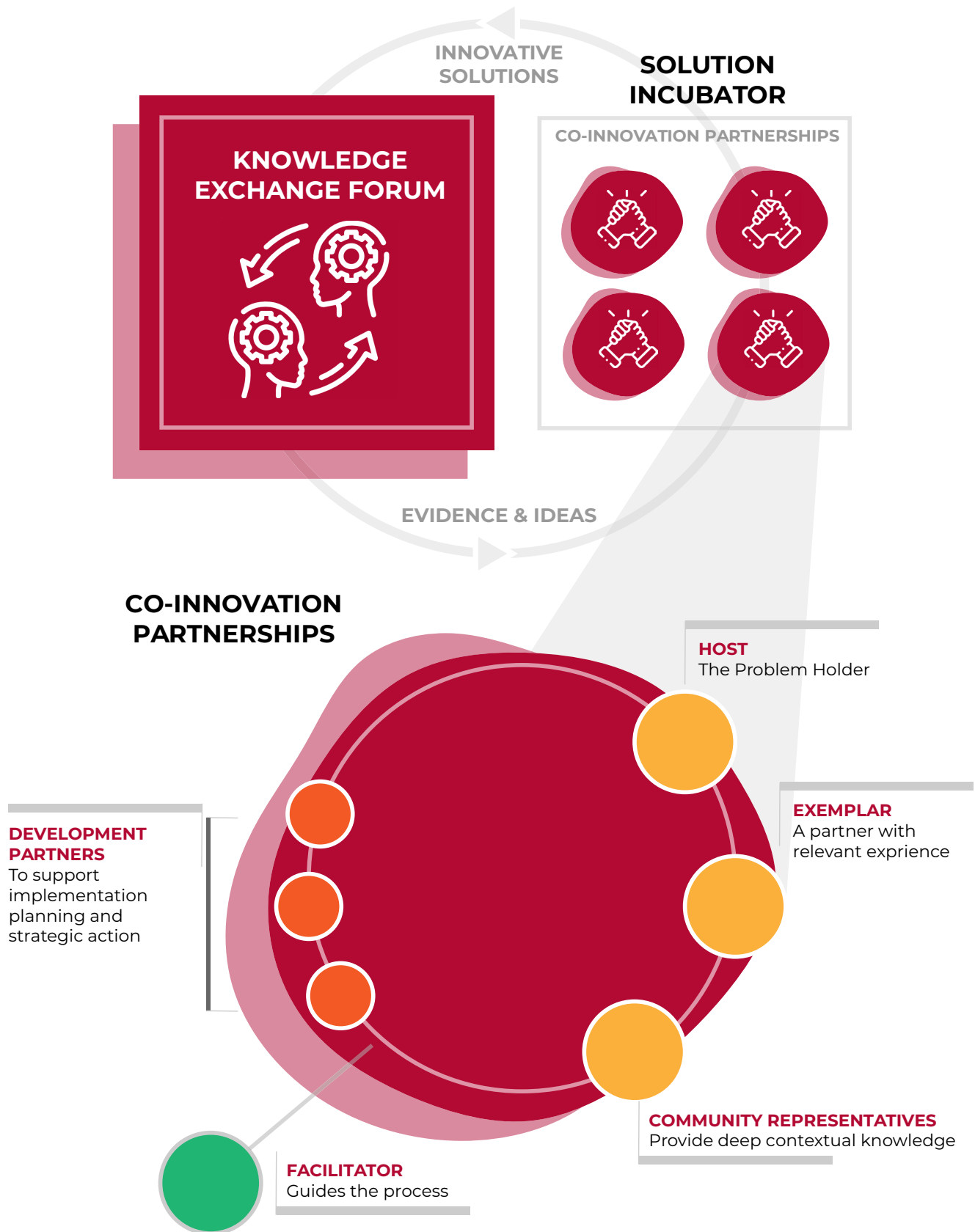
SOLUTION INCUBATOR

A facility hosting problem-driven co-innovation processes that bring diverse partners together to co-create innovative solutions to key challenges.

Participants in co-innovation partnerships can:

- ✓ Address specific barriers limiting nutrition impact in social protection systems
- ✓ Gain access to diverse perspectives and technical expertise
- ✓ Forge practical South-South collaborations and partnerships
- ✓ Generate evidence-backed, context-adapted implementation roadmaps

CO-INNOVATION MODEL



INNOVATION DOMAINS

The determinants of nutrition impacts in social protection systems are diverse, context-specific, and evolving. There are many potential barriers or bottlenecks constraining nutrition impacts across these systems, and each barrier represents a unique and valuable opportunity for co-innovation. A landscape assessment conducted by GAIN highlighted four key innovation domains that can improve the nutrition impacts of social protection. These domains include:



Across these domains, there are numerous context-specific opportunities to improve nutrition impacts through co-innovation. Two specific examples of topic areas that could be targets for co-innovation are explored below in **BOX 1**.

BOX 1: CO-INNOVATION OPPORTUNITY SPOTLIGHTS

SPOTLIGHT: MULTISECTORAL POLICY INTEGRATION

Recent reports emphasize the need for more integrated policies that not only address poverty and food security, but also promote inclusive economic growth, gender equality, and nutrition.¹ Co-innovation, an inherently multistakeholder approach, can be a powerful force for elaborating policy agendas that facilitate collaboration among multiple stakeholders, including the private sector, civil society, and communities. Strong multisectoral policy integration mitigates the potential for inefficiencies and missed opportunities in leveraging social protection to improve nutrition outcomes.

SPOTLIGHT: ADAPTING NUTRITION SERVICES TO CONTEXT

Determining design elements like the type, value, duration and conditionalities of benefits can be a substantial challenge for administrators. Evidence shows that successful programs carefully consider the implementation context in determining whether an intervention is likely to support nutrition outcomes (ibid). Co-innovation offers programme administrators the opportunity to closely engage with the perspectives of diverse stakeholders, who together can clearly comprehend and work to address the root causes of malnutrition through context-appropriate benefits and delivery mechanisms.

¹ SPIAC-B. 2024. Social Protection and the way forward to eliminate poverty and ensure human dignity and adequate nutritious food for all.

INNOVATING TOGETHER

The Platform's users are committed to the values of creativity, openness, and cooperation, which are the driving force behind the Platform's co-innovation model. We acknowledge the valuable contributions that local communities' perspectives can make in innovation processes. The Platform rigorously deploys human-centered design (HCD) and inclusive governance approaches, enabling community members, government officials, and other stakeholders to constructively engage and collaborate as equal partners driven by shared goals.

WHY CO-INNOVATION?

Co-innovation is an approach to innovation that is driven by collaboration, knowledge exchange, and dialogue amongst diverse stakeholders with shared goals. In contrast with conventional approaches to innovation, co-innovation has a number of distinct advantages.

This approach enables innovators to:

- ✓ Gain access to diverse and complementary perspectives
- ✓ Accelerate generation and refinement of new ideas
- ✓ Pool resources, evidence, and effort to amplify impact and scale
- ✓ Strengthen strategic partnerships and mobilize key commitments

Co-innovation is a particularly powerful approach for addressing complex, system-scale challenges, such as the impacts of social protection on nutrition.

GET IN TOUCH

For more information about the platform, or to learn how to join a co-innovation process, send an enquiry to:

coinnovation@gainhealth.org

